

## ZIKA VIRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity tonight to come to the floor of the House together with a bipartisan group of legislators from the State of Florida to talk about the importance of urgent action on the Zika virus.

Perhaps no story has captivated the anxiety of the American people more than Zika has recently. Neither has a topic more angered the American people, angered people throughout Florida, because of the inability of a Congress and a President and a divided government to put policy ahead of politics and actually address what is a growing public health crisis.

Many issues that we face today—the Founders intended this—are regional issues, from flooding, to health scares, to infrastructure issues. We have regional representation here in the House. Florida, in the continental United States, is ground zero for the impact of the Zika virus.

What has emerged within the Florida delegation, I am proud to say, is consensus that continues to grow among Republicans and Democrats around urgency. Now, we all have different opinions about the packages that have been proposed. Over the past 6 months, we have seen three primary options:

The President proposed a plan of \$1.9 billion over 2 years. That was his initial proposal.

The House proposal had money flowing at about that same rate by reallocating \$600 million from unspent Ebola money that was to be delivered over about 6 months, so \$100 million a month, depending on how you calculate the color of money.

The Senate reached a compromised plan at about \$1.1 billion. Now, I am sure we all have differences of opinions about which plan is best. We have seen that. We have seen demands for votes on the President's plan. In fact, in the Appropriations Committee, we have had to take those votes many times. We have seen the Senate act on their plan. We have seen the House act on theirs.

I had great reservations about some of the elements of the President's plan, and I was honest about this. The President's plan assumed a 2-year crisis instead of just 1. I had questions about that. The President's plan allowed for construction of capital properties on leased lands with no recapture provisions. I had concerns about that in terms of stewardship of taxpayer dollars. The President's plan also expands Medicaid services of taxpayer supported health care in Puerto Rico by an additional 10 percent for any healthcare needs, not just Zika, arguably diluting money going to Zika. Those were my concerns. The system is set up for us to have that debate. It is okay that we have that debate.

Others have great concerns about the House bill and some of the provisions and riders in the House bill. They have objected to those. That is understandable as well.

In the Senate, they reached a compromise around a \$1.1 billion clean bill.

We should have these debates early on. Nothing should be rubber-stamped. We wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't actually read the legislation, see what is in it, and talk about a contest of ideas. But we can never let those differences lead us to inaction. That is what is at risk in the current Zika debate. We cannot let our differences lead us to doing nothing.

I believe we have a pathway forward around a consensus, clean \$1.1 billion package we have seen in the Senate today with my colleague, CURT CLAWSON, from the State of Florida and others. We have introduced the clean version with no riders of the Senate plan here in the House of Representatives to hopefully give us a platform where we can build consensus around it. I believe that is the way to do it. Drop the riders, fund Zika. Let's do it. Let's do it now.

But at the end of the day, whatever package comes through here, we are called to support it. This is a public health crisis that we must address, which is why, despite my objections initially to the President's plan, I have begun to vote for the President's plan in the Appropriations Committee because the urgency is now, and it is time that we pass a Zika package.

The American people are angry, but they are scared. It is not our job to take the nuances of legislation, the nuances of different colors of money in the Federal budget process, and try to preach at the American people why one side is right or the other. Our job is to listen to the anxiety of the American people and address a pending health concern in a divided government.

The anger is that this issue perfectly reflects the dysfunction we often see in Congress, and it is doing so in the context of a public health crisis. We have to seize upon the better angels in this Chamber and in this town. You see, it doesn't help when either side plays politics with the Zika issue when the first thing that happens after a vote is the two campaign committees rush emails out the door in Members' home districts trying to raise money or blame politics, blame each other.

As a Florida delegation, let us lead tonight in trying to form consensus around a solution on Zika.

In that light, I am happy to be joined this evening, first, by a colleague of mine from south Florida and the Keys, one of the most beautiful districts next to Pinellas County, I would say.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO), a champion and early endorser of Zika funding.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY), my distinguished

colleague, for leading this very important discussion here this evening on a topic that has a lot of people worried back home.

I remind people that, in the State of Florida, this is, obviously, a public health crisis. There are a lot of women who are pregnant and are very concerned. A few weeks ago, we got a call from my wife's OB/GYN telling us that his office was full of patients asking questions—a lot of anxiety, a lot of nervous people in our State.

In Florida, this is also an economic issue. I met recently with businessowners in the Wynwood-Allapattah area near downtown Miami. They tell me that business in that area is down 60 percent. That means jobs. That means people who aren't going to be able to take income home to their families, income that they need.

For us, of course, it is a public health crisis, and that is our number one concern because we want to make sure that people can live comfortably and feel safe in our State. We actually know a few people who have left the State because they are pregnant and they don't want to risk exposing their unborn babies to the effects, the devastating effects, that we have seen Zika cause throughout the world, primarily microcephaly, babies born with brain disorders.

By the way, we are still learning a lot about the Zika virus. We don't know what the long-term effects are because, until recently, this isn't a virus that had really come under the microscope.

The bottom line is that we need these funds because we need long-term certainty in the fight against Zika. We need long-term certainty so that all the Federal agencies—the CDC, Health and Human Services, State agencies, local agencies—can all respond, develop a vaccine, and, of course, help partner nations overseas.

In Florida, we get tourists from all over the world, but especially from Latin America, from South America. We need to help nations like Brazil get this virus under control; otherwise, we will continue to be exposed.

Madam Speaker, I am so thankful to my colleague, Mr. JOLLY, for his leadership on this issue, for bringing us together here tonight—Republicans and Democrats—asking for common sense, asking to make the American people proud of this Congress, to show that we can be competent, that we can solve people's problems, that we can help people feel safe and secure in their communities, especially throughout the State of Florida.

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Speaker, my appreciation to Congressman CURBELO.

Carlos raises an interesting insight, which is part of getting to the bottom of this early on, that, as stewards of taxpayer dollars, what is the money to be used for? Those questions initially are very important. As I mentioned, I had some early objections with the President's plan that I have resigned

over that I will support if it is what it takes to get a package done. But what is the money used for? That is an important question for the American people.

One of the questions was: Is mosquito control really a Federal activity? That is a legitimate question. Should we rely on States and localities for mosquito control?

Here is the important thing you will learn when you get into why we need a Federal bill to support Zika. It is about the vaccine development. It is about the research into how do we have a cure and eradicate the Zika virus, how do we partner with States and localities who are deploying resources right now for mosquito control, mosquito abatement and education; but how does the Federal Government also step in in the midst of what is a public health crisis with national implications both to people's health, to their lives, and also to our Nation's economy and Florida's economy? What is the proper role of the Federal Government?

In this case, I believe it is to provide the funding, hopefully at the \$1.1 billion level, but I would be happy to support the \$1.9 billion as well, whatever it takes to get it done.

□ 1815

Representing the urgency and consensus to get this done, we are joined by a Democratic colleague of ours from Palm Beach and the Broward County area, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH).

Mr. DEUTCH. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I thank my Republican colleagues for joining here on this vitally important issue.

I rise to call for a vote on a Zika funding bill that is free of partisan hot button issues and that is free of political gamesmanship.

I am proud to join in this call for action with my Florida colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike. We have come together—above partisan divisions—to support the administration's request for emergency Zika funding. Our ability to come together and the refusal of the rest of this Congress to do the same is telling. South Florida is actively fighting outbreaks in South Beach and Wynwood. There are cases in Broward County, and there are cases in Palm Beach County, and we have seen locally acquired cases in my home district.

My constituents and the constituents of my colleagues throughout Florida are feeling the anxiety and the fear that come when there is so much that is out of their control. It is time for Congress to do all that we can to help stop the spread of this virus. This Congress' inaction is hurting Florida's families. As Representative CURBELO pointed out, it is hurting our economy.

I have three children. My twin daughters are just settling back in to start a new year of college. Today, by the way—I share with my Florida colleagues—they are celebrating their 21st

birthday. My son is finishing up high school; but it feels like just yesterday when my wife and I were anxiously expecting each of their arrivals into our lives. Like most Americans who are starting a family or who are growing a family, we experienced the full range of complex emotions as we waited for their births: the sense of not knowing exactly what is going to come, the excitement, the anxiety, the anticipation, the joy. Unfortunately, the Zika virus is threatening the joy of growing a family for thousands of Floridians, and we are just not doing all that we can to stop it.

In December of last year, after outbreaks in Brazil were connected to devastating birth defects, The New York Times reported a warning for the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC warned at the time that imported cases "will likely increase and may result in local spread of the virus in some areas of the United States."

Now, at that time in December, 2,700 babies had been born with microcephaly in Brazil—an increase from 150 the year before. These babies were born with abnormally small heads, and now we know, from subsequent research, that the Zika virus attacks growing cells that cause incomplete brain development and smaller heads in these children. These birth defects are devastating. They are also incurable. These children will have lifelong problems with their vision and with their cognitive abilities and will have other complications.

Now we know that the CDC's warning in December has become a reality in Puerto Rico and in south Florida.

Verified cases have exploded in Puerto Rico. In the span of only a few weeks—from the end of July until today—the total cases of Zika on the island have jumped from 5,500 total and 672 in pregnant women to nearly 14,000 total and 1,000 cases in pregnant women. If these trends continue, experts expect that a quarter of the population of Puerto Rico will be infected—or 887,000 infections. That, unfortunately, would represent tens of thousands of babies being born with microcephaly.

The costs of care and the toll on families is staggering. This is an issue that affects families. It is also an issue that winds up affecting their communities. The lifetime costs of medical care for each of these children will be in the millions of dollars.

While the virus is spreading rapidly in Puerto Rico, experts like virologist Tim Tellinghuisen of Scripps Research Institute said that the situation in Puerto Rico could very much happen in Florida. Over the past 7 weeks, as Congress was in recess, Florida cases went from 311—and no local infections—to over 600 cases, including 56 local infections. The number of cases in pregnant women has doubled. Our constituents are at risk.

For us, this is not a political fight. Honestly, in my heart, I do not under-

stand how this has become a political fight for those leaders who have blocked the Zika funding in a clean bill. I understand and my colleagues here understand that we serve in the most polarized Congress in history. There are all kinds of issues that we could debate and ways that we might get at that and ways that we could change it as we need to. We have seen the divide over and over again between Republicans in Congress and President Obama; but the funds requested in this Zika battle—the funds requested to fight Zika—are not grounded in ideology.

The President didn't wake up one day and say: Hmm, I think we should have \$1.9 billion to fund Zika.

After the warnings that followed the outbreaks in Brazil, President Obama went to the scientists and to the experts at the NIH and the CDC and other agencies, and he asked: What will it take to respond?

His request to this Congress represents their answer.

As we heard last week, the funding situation is now dire. Dr. Tom Frieden, the Director of the CDC, said, basically, we are out of money.

So I join my colleagues here because it is past time to act. We have to put these political battles behind us. We have to do—and we have the opportunity to do here—something that, I think, is not only the right thing for us and, more importantly, for our constituents—for the American people—but we could do something that would actually, perhaps, set an example. We should elevate the common good. We have to protect American families, and we have to pass a clean funding bill to stop the spread of Zika.

To Mr. JOLLY, I will relay just one conversation I had on my way out of the office. I was talking to a staffer of mine about the coming months, and the conversation turned to November, when there is an election. Sometimes people from D.C. like to volunteer on campaigns on the weekend before the election. I have a young woman in my office who said she just doesn't think that she is going to be willing to go down this year out of fear of Zika.

How do we not show that we can act in a way that responds to a public health emergency, and only to that public health emergency, without bringing in all of these other issues?

We have to do this. I am really grateful to be here on the House floor, and I am really thrilled to be here with my Republican colleagues, who are as committed to doing this as I am. I am so grateful for the opportunity to share this time with you.

Mr. JOLLY. I thank my colleague, Mr. DEUTCH.

That is the urgency. My colleague, Mr. DEUTCH, mentioned his family, and birthday wishes are in order.

Congratulations.

My wife and I just got married last year, and we are hoping to have a family ourselves. We live within 5 or 10

miles of one of the non-travel-related cases. Folks do understand the anxiety that creates for people in Florida who are hoping to have a family.

Yesterday and the day before—and it created a bit of a buzz—I brought about 100 mosquitoes of the *Aedes aegypti* variety, which are capable of carrying Zika. Through working with the University of South Florida, we were able to get these mosquitoes here to Washington, D.C., because I wanted colleagues to understand the urgency of what happens to families in Florida when they are in the proximity of these mosquitoes.

When I gave a speech with these mosquitoes, do you know what the American people said—hundreds and thousands of people?

“Release them.” “Smash the jar.”

Do you want to see Congress work fast?

Expose Zika mosquitoes in this Chamber. We would shut it down. We would scrub the Chamber. People would get tested. That is the anxiety. That is the urgency.

It doesn't know partisanship. It is okay that we have had this debate initially over what the right response is—the President's proposal, the House's, or the Senate's. That is okay. That is doing our job, but it is not doing our job when we let the fighting and debating lead us to do nothing.

We are joined tonight by another leader in our delegation from the panhandle—the Tallahassee area of Florida—a good friend, a Democratic friend, Ms. GWEN GRAHAM.

Ms. GRAHAM. I thank Congressman JOLLY, and I thank Congressman DEUTCH very much for arranging this tonight. It means a lot. I feel the same anxiety just being as close to the larvae as others feel, and I might just ask that the gentleman keeps them in the jar.

Madam Speaker, let me talk about my home State of Florida. I was born and raised in south Florida. I think, right around now, the Sun is probably setting in south Florida. The weather is nice. It is 80 degrees. The sky is that beautiful pink that we get. Vacationing tourists are strolling along the beach or are enjoying dinner on a patio. Somewhere—I know this—there is a dad outside who is grilling steaks, and moms are watching soccer practice. That is our life. That is our life in the beautiful State of Florida. It is like a lot of other places around this country except, right now in Florida, families are scared.

I have thought about the gentleman and Laura, and I understand that fear.

Families are scared because, as the Sun sets, the mosquitoes are coming out. For all of our lives we have lived with mosquitoes. It is part of our life in Florida, but now they are more than a nuisance. Now they are a deadly threat. We are scared because there is a deadly virus spreading. Parents are scared that, if their children are bitten, they could get terribly sick. Seniors

are scared that, if they catch the disease, they may not survive. Pregnant women are scared that they will wake up one morning with a mosquito bite and that it may cause the children inside them to be born with terrible birth defects.

My daughter would be appalled for me to say this, but she is 25. She doesn't live in Florida right now. I hope she will move back, but the risk of pregnancy right now would not be one that I would want her to take.

So this is the new normal in Florida. More than 600 people in Florida have been infected with the Zika virus. Almost 100 pregnant women in Florida have been infected.

We have been sounding the alarm for months, haven't we, Congressman JOLLY?

I have come on this floor to ask for funding to fight the disease. I led a letter with more than 120 Democrats that asked Speaker RYAN to have a vote on full funding to fight the disease. I did a workday with the local mosquito control team in Bay County, and I have asked my constituents in north Florida to do their part to fight off the spreading disease.

I ask again—particularly now, following Hermine, as we have had a lot of water in our area—to please go out and make sure that you dump any standing water.

I am really proud of all that we are doing as Floridians to try and stop the spread of Zika in Florida.

Florida State University is researching the virus and making important breakthroughs.

□ 1830

Local municipalities are spraying. Ordinary people, as I said, are dumping standing water out of their yard. We are doing our part in Florida. Now, it is time for Congress to act and do their part as well.

Madam Speaker, yesterday I joined a bipartisan letter with Florida Republicans and Democrats who are asking for one simple thing: Give us a vote on a clean bill that would fully fund the fight against Zika. Give us a vote on a clean bill that would fully fund the fight against Zika.

This is a public health emergency.

Just as important, let's give scientists the certainty they need to research and develop a vaccine for Zika, and this could take several years. Prematurely cutting off resources before the vaccine is ready could be just as dangerous as not providing enough money today.

I spoke with the scientists. As they develop vaccines, they go through different trial stages. Ethically, you can't start a vaccine study, ask people to participate, and then say: “Never mind. Our funding has dried up. You are not going to be able to continue.” That is not something that we could do.

Our delegation has shown that Republicans and Democrats have come to-

gether on this issue, and I believe that the entire Congress can as well.

There are Republicans and Democrats in States along the Gulf Coast—Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana—who will come together and support full funding because their constituents are at risk, too.

I am still holding out hope that Speaker RYAN will be able to support full funding to fight this deadly virus.

Time is running out. It is time to put partisanship aside and vote on full funding to fight this horrific disease, Zika. We must all come together to make sure that the resources are there for mosquito control and for vaccine production.

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, Ms. GRAHAM. We are down to 4 or 5 minutes. We have two more speakers remaining.

I yield to the gentleman from Pinellas County, Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I agree with Representative GRAHAM that we must fund this and we must fund a clean bill. Whatever it takes, Madam Speaker, we have to get this done as soon as possible.

I have been focused on the growing problem of Zika since March, when the Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing on Zika preparedness, and we have been working together in a bipartisan fashion to get this done.

Zika is a unique problem that will only increase. As of the end of August, there were 2,686 cases of travel-associated Zika within the United States. These cases came from international travel where the individual acquired Zika abroad and discovered it when they returned to the United States.

There have also been 35 cases of locally acquired mosquito-borne Zika. As a matter of fact, we have a nontravel-related case in our county, Pinellas County.

There are 35 individuals who got Zika because a mosquito bit them within the United States. Because of this local transmission for the first time ever, we now have a CDC travel advisory about an area within the United States in the Miami area.

If you expand the incidences of Zika to include the territories, there would be 14,059 cases of locally acquired infections of Zika. Mr. Speaker, this is a large amount. We must act now. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has nearly 14,000 cases of locally acquired Zika. That number will only grow, unfortunately.

624 women within the United States had Zika while pregnant, and 971 women from the territories. We don't know the full impact that Zika will have on their infants. Already, CDC reports that 16 infants have been born with birth defects within the United States. I don't know how many more when we include the territories.

Zika can cause microcephaly, a birth defect where a baby's head is smaller than expected when compared to other

babies. Babies with microcephaly often have smaller brains that might not have developed properly.

People are really scared, Madam Speaker. We have to get this done in a bipartisan fashion.

Not all babies who have been exposed to Zika while in utero, have been born with visible birth defects.

However, we cannot say that they were born without any effect of Zika.

It is possible that they may have delayed development.

That's why I plan on introducing tomorrow, the Pregnant Women and Infants Zika Registry.

This bill will establish a CDC registry program for pregnant women and will track infants up to age five, so that researchers can get a better understanding of the impact of Zika.

This registry will collect information on pregnancy and infant outcomes following laboratory evidence of Zika virus infection during pregnancy.

The data collected will be used to update recommendations for clinical care, to plan for services for pregnant women and families affected by the Zika virus, and to improve prevention of Zika virus infection during pregnancy.

I invite all my fellow Floridians and fellow members to cosponsor this bill.

It's a responsible tool to increase our knowledge of Zika and help increase the quality and standard of care for patients.

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Speaker, we are about out of time. We have one last speaker.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, hopefully I get an opportunity to speak and continue tomorrow.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Jupiter, Florida (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague and my friend (Mr. JOLLY) for organizing this Special Order, for his leadership on this issue, and convening this important conversation on the need for immediate action to combat Zika.

It is clear to us in Florida that Zika is not a partisan issue. It is about protecting our families and our children. Yet, 7 months after the World Health Organization declared an international public health emergency over Zika and the administration submitted its request for \$1.9 billion in emergency funds to combat the virus, no bipartisan agreement has been reached to pass a bill providing the resources needed for this fight.

As the number of Zika cases continues to grow across the Nation, including more than 50 local trans-

missions in Florida alone, this prolonged congressional inaction is unacceptable. That is why over a dozen members of Florida's congressional delegation are calling on congressional leaders to take immediate action on a clean Zika funding bill.

I was proud to lead this bipartisan letter with Congressman JOLLY, and I want to thank those Representatives who have joined us.

Our hope is that the rest of Congress will work together like our delegation and treat this matter with the seriousness that it deserves, taking action needed to protect the American people and public health. That starts with ending the political posturing and dropping divisive, unrelated policy riders and immediately passing a clean funding bill to provide the resources necessary to fight Zika.

This is an emergency, not an opportunity to be exploited to score points against Planned Parenthood or to weaken the Affordable Care Act. Congress' delay has only made the problem worse and more expensive as babies tragically born with microcephaly will require a lifetime of care.

The need for emergency funding could not be more urgent given the CDC Director's recent statements that current Zika funding is nearly exhausted, so we must find the bipartisan cooperation. We must pass a clean bill and get this done immediately. The people of Florida deserve it.

This is even after the extraordinary move of reallocating over \$80 million from research on Ebola, HIV, cancer, diabetes, and other chronic conditions to prioritize Zika efforts.

Beyond the funding, we also need to make sure the scientists and researchers working on developing a Zika vaccine have the necessary tools to do just that.

For example, during a recent visit to Scripps Florida, a leading research facility in my Congressional district, I heard from their Zika research team about the need for location-specific blood samples for their ongoing work.

Additionally, we must make sure that states and local partners have the resources needed to implement and maintain world-leading mosquito control programs to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

I am proud to have put forward the SMASH Act with my colleague, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. CLAWSON, who knows firsthand how important mosquito control districts are.

The SMASH Act will support our local mosquito control districts to help fight the spread of Zika.

Additionally, the bill provides grants to support the work of state and local health departments, our partners on the ground, for treating infectious diseases like Zika.

To further bolster prevention, detection, and treatment efforts, Governor Scott should expand Medicaid in Florida.

Up to one million Floridians could be newly covered if the governor would simply accept available federal dollars.

These dollars would go directly to strengthening our public health and responding to Zika.

This crisis requires collective action, with all levels of government working together on both

immediate and long-term solutions to combat this virus.

There are also a few simple steps Floridians can take to protect themselves.

To prevent bites and the spread of mosquitoes, this includes wearing bug spray and draining standing water.

Furthermore, it is important to remember that Zika can be sexually transmitted and the same safe sex practices that help prevent the spread of HIV will also prevent the spread of Zika.

Zika and mosquitoes don't care if you're a Democrat or Republican.

This is a serious health crisis that impacts all Americans.

It is great to see growing bipartisan support in Congress to do the right thing, putting political posturing aside to move forward a clean funding bill to combat this virus and keep families safe.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Florida, Mr. JOLLY, and the rest of our delegation for showing the leadership needed to get this done and enlist Congress in the fight against Zika.

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to be recognized to address the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I intend to take up the topic of the commemoration of the life of Phyllis Schlafly.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days on which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on the topic of this Special Order here this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, this sad news came to me this past weekend that the relatively long and extraordinarily productive and impactful life of Phyllis Schlafly had come to an end at the age of 92.

I got to know Phyllis throughout the political activism of the country among conservative politics. It goes back for me quite a ways now, too, I might add. But I didn't pay a lot of attention to what was going on in the early '70s when Phyllis Schlafly's eyes went on some of the transformative shifts that were taking place in America.

Phyllis was a pro-life activist before Roe v. Wade. She saw it coming. She knew what it meant. She became one of the strongest pro-life voices in all of America and, I would say, the most persistent, the most consistent, and the most relentless voice for the long-est period of time.