

grow and be benefited by the greatness of this country but also to bring the greatness of this country.

Life is a gift of God. It can only be sustained by people who understand that same gift, and I just pray that the Supreme Court and, ultimately, Congress and the legislatures of our land will stand for life.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR THE PORT OF INDIANA-BURNS HARBOR

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for Congress to complete the consideration of the fiscal year 2022 appropriations measures prior to the current deadline of February 18. I remain grateful that a transparent process was established for all Members to include eligible projects in these measures.

Notably, for the first District of Indiana, there are projects included that will allow for dredging and improvements at the Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor. This incredible facility is essential to the functions of the north-west Indiana steel and manufacturing industries and supports thousands of steelworker jobs and longshoreman jobs along the way.

Appropriations measures are not just funding numbers and direction for Federal programs and projects. They are a testament to the government's investment that create jobs and grow our economy.

I appreciate the ongoing communications of our appropriations leaders, and I look forward to doing all I can to ensure that these important measures are signed into law as soon as possible.

FORTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

(Mrs. McCLAIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks 49 years since the landmark Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade, 49 years since the choice won over life in the eyes of the American people.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle applaud Roe v. Wade and have no problem with the more than 62 million innocent babies who have been aborted since 1973.

I, however, find these numbers to be sickening.

These children are just as worthy of life as a fully grown adult is. They are created in the image of God just as you and I are, and their lives should not be carelessly and despicably destroyed.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle preach and parade human rights.

But where is the outrage for equal human rights for the unborn?

It is frighteningly nonexistent, and their lack of consistency makes it very clear what their priorities are.

How can you claim to care for one life when you don't care for all lives, no matter how small?

HEALTHCARE WORKERS

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the men and women who have been on the front lines of this pandemic from the very beginning: our healthcare workers. On MLK Day, I had a chance to deliver care packages to hospitals and clinics in my district in Joliet, Aurora, and Naperville as a small token of appreciation for the tireless work of our healthcare workers.

As our Nation confronts this, hopefully final, winter surge of COVID, we should all keep in mind the people who are still going to work every day to care for people who are sick. Their dedication to their jobs is truly inspiring, and they are literally saving lives every day. After almost 2 years of battling COVID, our healthcare workers are mentally and physically exhausted, but yet they still show up every day to provide care for others.

We can all learn so much from them.

I am honored to represent so many of them in my district in places like Edward Hospital in Naperville, Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox, Rush Copley Medical Center in Aurora, and Aunt Martha's Health Center in Joliet; just to name a few.

So I want every healthcare worker in America—doctors, nurses, and support staff—to know that they are not alone. I thank them for being there.

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S 1-YEAR REVIEW

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, in business, a 1-year review is customary. So let's review the Biden administration's first year by the numbers. As we tend to say in business, the numbers don't lie.

Regarding the economy, there are 6 million Americans unemployed while 10 million jobs remain unfilled. The vast majority of small businesses are hiring, yet 95 percent report few applications. Inflation, Mr. Speaker, is at a 40-year high of 7 percent. Gas is up 50 percent, and it costs about \$100 to fill up the gas tank on a pickup truck.

Regarding national security, it is really no better. Two million illegals have crossed our border. Twice as much fentanyl is coming in; we have over 100,000—sadly—fatalities throughout the United States. And we have 125,000 troops preparing to invade Ukraine.

We have 2-mile long lines for COVID testing in my district.

Mr. Speaker, we are not going to hold our breath for corrective action to be taken by the Biden administration;

they have stated how they plan to double down. It will be up to the American people to solve this problem come November.

ROE V. WADE

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, as I stand at this podium, I will speak for about 60 seconds, and within those 60 seconds, an unborn baby will lose its life. In fact, in America, an unborn baby will have its life ripped away every 50 seconds through the gruesome procedure of abortion. This is about 630,000 unborn lives lost per year—a number that equals about 80 percent of my congressional district.

This is tragic. God has a plan for these children. They are our brothers, sisters, friends, and loved ones. They are future leaders, nurses, doctors, farmers, and small business owners. But, most importantly, they are human beings with a purpose from our Creator. There is nothing more hideous than taking the life of the most vulnerable in our society.

Forty-nine years ago, the decision made by the Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade has resulted in the death of over 62½ million unborn babies. Despite the three-quarters of Americans who want significant restrictions on abortions, my colleagues across the aisle are still prioritizing their abortion-on-demand agenda.

This is senseless. Together, as a nation, we must make this the last year we speak on this horrible anniversary. We cannot wait another 50 seconds, another 50 months, or another 50 years. Everyone is entitled to the right to life.

VOTING RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KAHELE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ALLRED) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, before I give my speech on voting rights, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MANUEL T. PADILLA

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today we honor the life and memory of Manny T. Padilla, a leader in our community and my very, very good friend.

Manny served on many boards, commissions, and organizations in Orange County, and he also served 9 years on the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Orange County's Board of Directors.

Among his many accomplishments, he was honored as Volunteer of the Year by the University of Georgetown, as well as receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of the State of California.

Manny's story started in New Mexico when he was 17. Then his high school principal chose two of the best students in his high school to be part of the Boys State program. Manny was one of those students.

He moved to Washington, D.C. later on and attended Georgetown University while he worked for then-Senator Dennis Chavez. Years later he attended law school where he met his wife, Betty, at the same time while working at the Department of Labor. They had four children. And Manny had a very long career in the private sector working for State Farm Insurance.

As we celebrate his life, we know his memory will serve as a great example to this next generation.

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

BRANDON ROAD PROJECT

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share some great news about our efforts to protect Lake Michigan and the rivers and lakes throughout Illinois and the entire Great Lakes region from invasive Asian carp.

Yesterday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that thanks to the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, \$225 million of new funding is headed to Illinois for the Brandon Road Project. The Brandon Road Lock and Dam on the Des Plaines River in Joliet, Illinois, is the last best line of defense against the spread of this invasive species into waterways not just in Illinois but to lakes and tributaries throughout the entire Great Lakes basin.

The economic and environmental consequences of allowing this infestation to spread would be massive, and that is why securing Federal funding for the Brandon Road Project has been one of my most important priorities for several years.

Last year, I joined my colleagues on the Great Lakes Task Force to urge the Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize the Brandon Road Project. And 3 years ago, I hosted members of the then-Republican-controlled Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for a tour of the Brandon Road site so that they could have a first-person look at the importance of this project.

This injection of much-needed funding means that we can move forward on getting this project done and protecting our waterways, and not just our Great Lakes, but the beautiful lakes and rivers that define the entire

Great Lakes region for generations to come.

I just wish that more of my Republican colleagues had actually voted for the bipartisan infrastructure bill to provide the funding for this great project.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, for decades, Americans have been asking their elected leaders to fix crumbling roads and bridges and modernize our Nation's transportation infrastructure. For decades, politicians of both parties promised to deliver on an infrastructure package. President Trump even promised that he would be the one person to get it done. But he didn't, not even when Republicans controlled the House, Senate, and Presidency.

□ 1215

It was President Biden and this Democratic Congress that finally got it done even though more than 90 percent of my Republican colleagues voted against it. Thanks to this new law, people in my State will benefit from robust Federal investment in the infrastructure that they rely on every day: \$11.2 billion for highway and bridge repairs; \$1.7 billion to make sure that everyone has access to clean drinking water; \$4 billion to enhance public transportation; \$616 million for infrastructure enhancements at Illinois airports; and over \$100 million for broadband internet expansion.

Just last week, the Department of Transportation announced that \$1.4 billion was already on its way to Illinois to repair bridges all across the State. This is the largest investment in our State's bridges since the construction of the Interstate Highway System, and it is just the beginning of the infrastructure investments that will benefit the people of Illinois every day.

I have to say, I look forward to meeting my Republican colleagues at the ribbon cutting ceremonies for all of these projects that they voted against.

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to talk about the foundation of our democracy: the right to vote and why we must protect it.

I want to begin just by telling a little bit about me. My story is somewhat unique. I didn't take the traditional path to Congress. Before I got here, I played in the NFL for 5 years as a linebacker for the Tennessee Titans. After hurting my neck, I decided to pursue my other dream, which was to become a voting rights attorney, a civil rights attorney. While I was in law school, I decided to focus on voting rights because of what I saw happening in my home State of Texas where it was becoming harder to vote as the State was becoming more and more diverse.

After I came back to Texas, I worked doing voter protection in 2014, setting up poll watcher programs across the State of Texas, trying to help voters deal with the new voter ID law that

had just been put in place and that I knew was going to deeply impact so many Texans. Then I became a voting rights litigator suing States like Ohio and Wisconsin for the laws that they passed making it harder for the people in their States to vote.

Then I was lucky enough to rejoin the Obama administration and finish out that administration.

I decided to come home and run for Congress in my hometown and my home district where I was born and raised. In 2018, I ran against an opponent who had been unopposed in 2016. I won, and I am now proud to be representing the 32nd Congressional District in Congress.

In that campaign in 2018, I had the distinct honor of having Congressman John Lewis come join me in Dallas. Mr. Lewis is my hero, and to have him with me talking to voters and campaigning with me was, to say the least, surreal. We went on to become colleagues, and I considered him to be a friend and a mentor. I know that without John Lewis, I would not be here today. There would be no Congressional Black Caucus.

So many of us would not be here today were it not for him, the other civil rights leaders, and the foot soldiers who fought for the right to vote. That is why we named this critical piece of legislation after him, the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act.

Now, this piece of legislation is not coming out of thin air. It is not a Federal takeover. Many of the reforms are intended to address long-held problems with access to the ballot box for many Americans. It is also meant to address the gutting of the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court in 2013, and the 440 voting restriction bills across 49 States that have been introduced in recent years.

Many of those bills to restrict the right to vote have become law in States like my own, in Texas, in Georgia, and so many other States. While other pieces address the direct and more recent threat to our democracy, including the counting of votes and the safety and security of election officials, this legislation is necessary for us to save our democracy.

Yes, we have had setbacks in this fight. Yesterday was another one. Not enough of our Republican colleagues in the Senate were brave enough to stand up to President Trump's lies and to vote for the same Voting Rights Act that the Senate had unanimously reauthorized in 2006 that my constituent, a Republican, President George W. Bush, signed in 2006. We were just shy of having enough Democrats in the Senate with enough courage to change the rules so that we could protect our democracy.

But I am here to say today, to all of my constituents and to anyone across the country who is worried about our democracy, that we can't lose hope. We have had setbacks before, just as Mr. Lewis did, and we have come back from

them. The American people have sent us a clear message.

In 2020, 155 million Americans voted in a pandemic. They risked their lives to vote. That is how important it was to them. Campaign finance reform; ending partisan gerrymandering; and expanding access to the ballot by creating national standards around voter registration, early voting, and vote by mail are all necessary for us in our democracy, and they are commonsense ideas that are contained in the Freedom to Vote Act. They will fortify and protect this sacred right.

But let's talk about what is happening in the country because I hear all the time from folks that voting is not difficult; that there has not been a rash of voter suppression laws passed across the country; that this is a Democratic story that is being told.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, between January 1 and September 27 at least 19 States enacted 33 laws to make it harder for Americans to vote.

Restrictive laws in four States: Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, and Texas, imposed new or more stringent criminal penalties on election officials or other individuals for helping their fellow citizens vote. These new criminal laws would deter election officials and others who assist voters from engaging in ordinary, lawful, and often essential tasks. People in Georgia can now be charged with a crime for handing out water and snacks to voters waiting in line to vote; lines that were created intentionally by restricting other ways to vote.

Montana eliminated election day voter registration, making it harder for new voters or folks who have moved to vote in that State.

Arizona temporarily restricted the powers of their secretary of State to represent them in lawsuits. And the reason? Because that position is held currently by a Democrat.

Other States have shortened the window to apply or the deadline to deliver a mail-in ballot or have eliminated ballot drop boxes and reduced polling places, and the list goes on and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, 155 million Americans voted in 2020, the highest turnout since the 1900 election. The Trump administration itself called it the most secure in American history. Yet, the lies about the election and the attacks on the right to vote have just continued and continued, and that is why I am standing here today.

Because of this new lie, these new laws have been passed, and we are seeing voter suppression taking place in real time in my home State in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just talk about my home State for a little bit because I hear from a lot of Texans who wonder why voting rights experts like myself say that it is one of the most difficult States in the country to vote.

I want to walk you through just how difficult it is to cast your ballot in my

home State. First, the State of Texas makes it incredibly difficult to register to vote. In order for me to register my neighbors in Dallas County, I need to go to the Dallas County elections department, take a short course, and become deputized as a volunteer deputy registrar. That is just to register my neighbors. After that, I am able to register voters only in Dallas County, and I am only able to do that for 2 years because it is going to expire, and then I have to go back and get it reauthorized.

After I registered that voter which I have done hundreds of times, I have 5 days to deliver the completed form that I filled out with them, or I face criminal penalties; 5 days. So if I lose it, something happens, I will be held criminally liable. If I would like to register voters in both of the counties in my congressional district, Collin County and Dallas County, I would have to go to Collin County and get deputized separately there. If I meet a voter who lives in the city of Dallas but doesn't know what county they live in, because four counties touch the city of Dallas, I would not be able to register them unless I know that I am deputized in their county, whether it be Denton County, Kaufman County, Collin County, Dallas County. I have to figure it out. That is just to register my neighbors as a lawyer, as a voting rights lawyer, for me to help my neighbor get registered.

If a voter would like to participate in the next election, they have to register at least 30 days before that election day. So if, like many young people, you decide that a week out from an election you are fired up, you are ready to go, you want to vote in that election, guess what? You can't. Because you didn't get registered in time.

Unlike many other States where they have same-day voter registration, in Texas you have to have decided 30 days out from the election that you were going to get registered and, hopefully, get through all of those other hoops.

Right now, as we speak, the secretary of State's office is citing a paper shortage as the reason why they can't print out enough voter registration forms, despite dragging their feet for years in expanding online voter registration for Texans. That is all just to get registered, Mr. Speaker. We are not even talking about casting your ballot yet.

So after you have gone through those hoops, after you have gotten registered, you have to then survive the purges of the voter rolls that are going on right now, such as in 2019, when Texas attempted to kick 100,000 Texans—incorrectly—off the voter rolls claiming that they were noncitizens. It was such a disaster the secretary of State had to resign.

Now, if you survived that, if you have gotten registered and you have not been purged from the voter rolls to actually cast your ballot, you have to jump through more hoops because

Texas has the strictest voter ID law in the country. In order for me to vote in the State of Texas, I need to possess one of seven acceptable forms of ID which does include a Texas handgun license but does not include a student ID like my constituents at SMU, or UTD, or any school in Dallas might be issued.

A Texas district court found in 2014 that 600,000 registered Texans or 4.5 percent of those registered at that time lacked one of these qualifying IDs. Now, thanks to a court ruling, you can sign a declaration stating that you don't possess that required form of ID. But that is not often communicated at the polling place. I know because I have trained poll watchers to try and watch for this. When voters present themselves and they don't have the required ID, they are often turned away.

If you have a disability or if you are out of town, or you just have difficulty coming to a polling place, you can't vote by mail very easily either. To vote by mail in the State of Texas you have to be 65 years or older, you have to be sick or disabled, or you have to be out of the county where your election is being held on election day and throughout the entire early voting period.

Recently, thanks to the State's voter suppression law, S.B. 1, this has become even more difficult. As reports from counties from across the State have shown, mail-in ballot applications are being rejected at an alarming rate. That is because this new law requires that people provide either a partial Social Security number or a driver's license number on their application for a mail-in ballot, and that number has to match the identification on their voter registration. This makes it extremely difficult for voters to remember which ID they used when they registered, perhaps decades ago.

In Dallas and Tarrant Counties right now, 40 percent, Mr. Speaker, of the applications have been rejected. In Bexar County where San Antonio is located, it is almost 50 percent. If these rejection rates hold, tens of thousands of mail-in ballots and possibly more will be rejected.

It is now a crime, Mr. Speaker, for county officials to encourage folks to vote by mail, meaning that if you are in a household and you are married and if a spouse requests a mail-in ballot, the county official cannot inform you that your spouse can also request a mail-in ballot if they are eligible or they face criminal penalties. And that doesn't even scratch the surface of dealing with voters whose names have changed because of marriage or divorce, or a change in gender identity, or whose names no longer match the names on the voter roll.

If you possess one of these IDs and if you are aware of your rights, you may still struggle to find a polling place. According to a report from the Leadership Conference Education Fund, 750 polling places have been closed in

Texas since 2012. This has disproportionately happened in counties with large Black and Latino populations.

The law also curbed other initiatives by counties to make voting easier. That happened during the pandemic, including limiting ballot drop boxes, banning counties from drive-through voting, and opening 24-hour voting locations as they did in Harris County where Houston is. They even tried to ban Sunday morning early voting to stop souls to the polls until they had too much outrage and they had to back off.

Texans in minority communities disproportionately face long lines when they get to the polling place in order to vote. This includes one Black man in Houston who waited 6 hours to cast his ballot in 2020.

If you make it through all of those hurdles: register to vote, cast your ballot by mail or in person via early voting or on election day, your vote will then be diluted through aggressive partisan gerrymandering at the State house, State senate, and congressional level.

□ 1230

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, Texas Democrats would have to win 58 percent of the vote to be favored to carry more than 37 percent of the State's congressional seats. That is a State where Joe Biden earned 46.5 percent of the vote.

According to this analysis, Texas would have to vote very heavily for Democrats in order to barely break the gerrymandering, and it would still likely leave Republicans with a 2-to-1 seat advantage.

This is all due to partisan gerrymandering, which allows politicians to choose their voters instead of the other way around.

Gerrymandering doesn't just silence communities, though. It also suppresses the vote. It is well known that competitive elections drive higher turnout, which is why the recent State and congressional maps in Texas sought to limit the number of competitive elections as much as possible.

For the Texas voter that has found a way to register and cast their ballot, and has ignored the impacts of gerrymandering, their vote is still under attack, even after they have cast it.

Currently, right now, as we are 2 months out from the primary election for our next election, our State's leaders are conducting a so-called audit of the 2020 election results in our largest counties at the request of the former President of the United States, trying to prop up the lie that the last election was stolen from him—in a State that he won.

All of these hurdles, combined with the potential discriminatory penalties, are making it difficult for the average Texan to feel that they can engage in an election freely. Even worse, States across the country are following Texas' lead. That is why we need to pass the

Freedom to Vote Act and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act.

The Freedom to Vote Act, just very quickly, for folks who are wondering, because there is a lot of discussion about this, this is what it actually does:

It establishes automatic, online, and same-day voter registration, which would solve our voter registration problems in the State of Texas.

It makes election day a Federal holiday, something that should happen.

It sets national standards for early voting and vote by mail, requiring 2 weeks of early voting, including 2 weekends, and allowing any American who wants to, to vote by mail.

It bans partisan gerrymandering and establishes clear, neutral standards and rules as well as increasing transparency and enhanced judicial review. This would address Texas' extremely gerrymandered maps.

It creates a uniform standard for what forms of ID are acceptable for voting.

It prevents States from subverting their own elections and protects election records, legislation that I introduced here in the House that I am glad to see included in this final bill.

Of course, the Voting Rights Act needs to be restored. We need to make sure that we have preclearance again. We need to have a national standard. That is what the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act does.

This is a bill that passed the Senate 98 to nothing in 2006. It passed the House overwhelmingly. It was signed into law by my constituent, again, George W. Bush, a Republican. Now, not a single Republican in the Senate or in the House will vote for it.

This brings me to my final thoughts. On January 6, I was just a few rows back from where I am standing now. The doors to my right were barricaded with furniture like this, which we use to hold paper, as a mob tried to break in and prevent us from ratifying the results of an American Presidential election.

I along with my colleagues like Mr. JONES, who is here with me, were prepared for the worst. These doors were locked. We didn't know if there would be a way out. But we were determined to do our job.

I think the most important thing that happened on January 6, the thing I hope that people remember that happened, isn't that we had to evacuate the House floor. I hope they remember that we came back.

We came back while there was still blood on the walls, while there was still broken glass on the floor, while we ourselves were dealing with our own emotional response to what had happened. While we ourselves were shaken, we came back and we voted—yes, in a bipartisan way—to affirm an American Presidential election. Our democracy held, just barely.

Since then, we have seen a more clever, slower attempt to accomplish the

same thing that those rioters tried to do on January 6, which is to subvert the will of the American people. We have seen it in State after State.

We have seen the worst rash of voter suppression laws that we have had in this country since the days of Jim Crow. In many ways, it is worse because it is not 1965, Mr. Speaker. It is 2022, and we should have made more progress by now. We shouldn't be having this conversation about whether or not certain Americans should be able to vote in our elections.

We have had this problem since the passage of the 15th Amendment, the idea that certain votes matter more than others, or that votes of certain people who live in certain places are inherently fraudulent, or that they don't know enough to be involved in an election.

I tell you what, I believe in the American people. I believe that they know that our democracy is what makes our country great. Our democracy is what allows us to have this thriving economy.

People are trying everything they can to get into this country still. They are not trying to join some of our autocratic opponents. They are not trying to break into Russia or China. They want to come to the United States. We are still a beacon of hope for the world.

When strongmen and autocrats worry about the United States, it is not just our military they worry about. It is our ideas. It is the idea of the United States. While that idea is under attack, I believe it is going to stand strong.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, to all of my constituents, to anyone who may be listening to this, the fight to protect the right to vote is far from over. The Senate may not have done its job yesterday, but I and my colleagues will not give up that fight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague, Congressman ALLRED, for his leadership in the fight to protect the fundamental right to vote and to save our ailing democracy. It has been an honor working with him, with Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, and with Congressman JOHN SARBANES over the past year on the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

As you just heard, we are living through the worst assault on the right to vote since the Jim Crow era. And yesterday, on the Senate floor, white nationalists used the Jim Crow filibuster to block voting rights legislation.

But they did not win the contest for the soul of our Nation. I rise to affirm that we the people aren't giving up that easily. We never give up.

We the people didn't give up when, after we finally ended the scourge of slavery in this Nation, white nationalists fought back, violently unraveling Reconstruction, throwing duly elected

Black people out of office, and barring Black voters from the voting booth for generations. We responded by organizing.

Progress came in fits. It took us nearly a century, but progress came.

It came in the courtroom where Thurgood Marshall helped to end a century of legalized segregation.

It came on the streets, where the March on Washington and the Montgomery bus boycott produced meaningful social change.

Of course, it came in Congress where, after considerable pressure from the civil rights movement, this Chamber and the Senate passed the Voting Rights Act into law, and they overcame a filibuster to do it. Imagine that.

Mr. Speaker, like you, I was hoping against all hope that today's story would end the same way, with a majority of Senators doing the right thing.

To those of you watching at home, to the millions of you who put it all on the line to save our democracy, to see the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act become law, I feel your pain right now. But I do not despair. As Sherrilyn Ifill, the director-counsel of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund, said recently: No story in the history of our quest for racial justice has ever ended with the words: "And then they gave up."

Our story, the story of building a true, multiracial democracy in the 21st century, is no exception. The fact is, progress is not always linear. It is messy. There are false starts. There are setbacks, like what happened last night. But the weight of history and the force of reason are on our side.

I grew up in the Baptist Church. To quote from the book of Jeremiah: Like a fire shut up in my bones, I know that goodness will prevail.

As the elders used to say: Trouble don't last always. Weeping may endureth for a night, but joy—joy—cometh in the morning.

Look at how far we have come already. Just a few years ago, democracy reform was a pipe dream embraced by only the most committed activists. But thanks to an overwhelming groundswell of energy, of movement building, of organizing, the Freedom To Vote: John R. Lewis Act passed the House, and it came just two votes short of passing the Senate.

We are not going anywhere. We are more energized than ever to see this through. We must pick up Senate seats this fall to make the filibuster an impossibility.

This is the fight of our lives, for our climate, for healthcare, our jobs, our dignity under the law, our future. We have no choice but to keep going.

I am reminded of the words of Dr. King in his 1966 speech in Kingstree, South Carolina:

"Let us march on ballot boxes, for this is the way we are going to straighten up . . . the Nation.

"Let us march on ballot boxes until somehow we will be able to develop

that day when men will have food and material necessities for their bodies, freedom and dignity for their spirits, education and culture for their minds.

"Let us march on ballot boxes so that men and women will no longer walk the streets in search of jobs that do not exist.

"Let us march on ballot boxes until the empty stomachs . . . are filled.

"Let us march on ballot boxes until the idle industries of Appalachia are revitalized.

"Let us march on ballot boxes until 'brotherhood' is more than a meaningless word at the end of a prayer but the first order of business on every legislative agenda.

"Let us march on ballot boxes."

Dr. King's words are as true today as they were nearly 60 years ago. But while our work must include the ballot box, we know that it also must go beyond it. We must envision the world as we want it, and we must do everything in our power to bring about that world.

Hold your elected officials accountable. Educate your friends, your family, your neighbors. Change their hearts and minds.

Mr. Speaker, unlike John Lewis and his generation, we are not called to risk our lives. We are merely called to exercise the rights that they helped to win: our votes and our voices.

Like those before us, let us march on.

□ 1245

REMEMBERING LANI GUINIER

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, as we grieve the demise of democracy legislation in the Senate last night, I rise in grief and in gratitude to honor my beloved teacher, the legendary Lani Guinier, who passed away earlier this month.

Lani Guinier's life defies summary. She began her career in the civil rights division at the Department of Justice. She led voting rights advocacy at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, often driving alone at night through hostile places, like from Selma to Mobile, Alabama, to win 31 of the 32 cases she argued. Due to her intellect and her sterling record of accomplishment, she was nominated to lead the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice. She would go on to become the first woman of color tenured at Harvard Law School.

But like many great civil rights leaders, Lani Guinier did not define herself by the power she held or the acclaim she received. She defined herself by the power she unleashed within her clients, her students, and the American people. Lani Guinier found her voice by helping others find theirs.

I am blessed that she helped me find my voice. So the day after the Senate tried to silence the voices of the American people, it feels fitting to honor her by speaking from the floor of the people's House.

I first met Professor Guinier when I was in college. I was taking a writing course, and with her characteristic

generosity, she agreed to let me interview her. At the time, I wanted to be a civil rights lawyer like my friend, COLIN ALLRED. That warm evening, the Sun still glowing in the sky, she illuminated a different path forward for me. She revealed to me that civil rights advocacy was about so much more than litigation, as important as that is. It was also about leveraging the power of impacted communities to transform entire institutions. Without meaning to, she helped persuade me to become a legislator.

When I arrived at law school, Professor Guinier taught me more than I could ever have expected, not just everything I know about voting rights law, but also how to become the person I hoped to be.

As the first woman of color to be tenured at Harvard Law School, Professor Guinier showed us that being a first is not a privilege but a responsibility—a lesson that is not lost on me as one of the first openly gay Black Members of Congress.

Her scholarship sought to show that every voice belonged in our constitutional conversation. Not just John Marshall, but Thurgood Marshall. Not just lawyers like Constance Baker Motley, but activists like Fannie Lou Hamer. Not just the people whose names make the history books, but the seemingly ordinary people living lives of extraordinary service.

While most law professors obsess over jurisprudence—what judges do, say, and think—Professor Guinier opened our eyes to demosprudence, the law that emerges from and enhances the power of the people. She knew that justice is not the work of Justices alone.

At heart, Professor Guinier was a democratic idealist, a prophetic voice who called us to reconstruct our democratic institutions and reimagine our democratic identities. She cautioned us that winner-take-all elections risk converting political competition into mutually assured destruction, intensifying conflict and underrepresenting those already underrepresented.

She helped Congress reinvigorate section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, work the Supreme Court subverted last year in *Brnovich v. DNC*, and which I was proud to help restore by introducing the Inclusive Elections Act, which we passed in the House but, unfortunately, the Senate rejected last night through the filibuster.

After the Court demolished the Voting Rights Act's foundation in *Shelby v. Holder* in 2013, she urged Congress to not only repair the damage—as we did in the House, but as was blocked last night by the Jim Crow filibuster—but she also encouraged us to guarantee an affirmative right to vote. I have been honored to answer that call by introducing the Right to Vote Act, which also passed the House last week as part of the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act.

Beyond prescribing specific reforms and remedies, Professor Guinier urged

us to see that democracy was not a zero-sum war over the power to dominate but, rather, a delicate project of sharing power with one another as equals. "Living in a democracy," she said, "is not something we inherit. It is not something we inhabit, and it is not something that we consume. It is something we actively build together."

Just as the Senate refused to heed the will of the people last night, the powerful did not always heed Professor Guinier. But she knew the power of dissent. Whether dissenters speak from the bench, from the lectern like this one, or from the streets, what seems like their weakness is really their strength. The powerful coerce us to do their bidding, but dissenters call us forward to freely do what is right.

I am heartbroken by Professor Guinier's passing. I miss her.

But Professor Guinier, even now, shows me that accepting myself as I am can help me to center the people I serve. She inspires me to protect and perfect our multiracial democracy. I once asked her how to advance that mission in today's times. She said, "I think that is the question for your generation." With our democracy on the line, may we, the people, lift every voice to answer.

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his words.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities against Members of the United States Senate.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I will be brief, and I will speak at the end of the Special Order as well if there is time.

Mr. Speaker, in 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court abandoned women and babies to what is now the multibillion dollar abortion industry, and almost 63½ million unborn children have been killed, a staggering loss of children's lives that is more than the entire population of Italy.

Now, by at least affirming the constitutionality of the Mississippi law after 15 weeks, which we are all hoping and praying for, the Supreme Court may finally take a powerful step towards inclusion, respect, and justice for the weakest and most vulnerable nearly 50 years after the infamous findings of Roe v. Wade.

Tomorrow thousands will march for life here in the capital and across the country.

I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS), who is a medical doctor, an anesthesiologist at Johns

Hopkins, and co-chairman of the Pro-Life Caucus.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the hope that after nearly 50 years, Roe v. Wade's attack on the most basic of human rights, the right to life, will soon meet its end.

Why are we going to be marching tomorrow? We do it because we believe that every person, born and unborn, deserves a chance at life. We march to shed light on the incredible resources available to expectant mothers who find themselves in desperate situations. We march to send a message that humanity cannot sit by and quietly tolerate the deliberate ending of human life.

Mr. Speaker, I am a physician, and I have helped thousands of women deliver their babies over the course of my career. When I underwent my training, I was taught that caring for expectant mothers meant caring for two patients, not one. As you can see here, advances in ultrasound technology have reinforced that training from decades ago. Mr. Speaker, these are not blobs of tissue we are talking about. These are human beings. The science is clear: From the moment of conception, new human life enters the world with its own unique DNA, and in a matter of weeks even a heartbeat.

Mr. Speaker, we march for an end to the human tragedy of abortion, and I pray each day that we come closer to this righteous conclusion.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH), co-chair of the Pro-Life Caucus.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my great friend, Mr. SMITH, and a great fighter for life for many years, and we appreciate all of his work on that.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 49th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade tragedy and to remember the more than 60 million unborn lives it has taken and the tragic, irreversible mark it has left on countless mothers, fathers, and families.

Every innocent life is precious, from conception until natural death, but for nearly five decades abortion has remained one of the greatest tragedies of our Nation.

The Supreme Court now has the opportunity to right some of the terrible wrongs committed in this country against the unborn since Roe v. Wade. I pray for our Justices, that they make the right decision, for many lives will depend on it.

We will continue to fight for the lives of unborn children.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. FISCHBACH for her powerful and eloquent witness for life, both in the legislature in Minnesota and now in the U.S. House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT). I would note that he is the prime author of two breakthrough laws. One is called the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act, which

is law, and the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his long-time leadership in protecting innocent, unborn lives. He was here at the beginning. The fathers of the pro-life movement here in the United States Congress were CHRIS SMITH and Henry Hyde.

Speaking of Henry Hyde, we have had for a long time something called the Hyde amendment, which basically said U.S. tax dollars could not go to pay for abortions, but we have a radical pro-abortion group of people that control this Congress now. They think that tax dollars ought to go to pay for other people's abortions.

They also believe that not only should we pay for abortions here in the United States with the people's tax dollars, but they ought to pay for abortions across the globe, and that is a reversal of the Mexico City policy.

The Supreme Court is currently considering two cases that may fundamentally alter abortion in this country, and it is my hope, my sincere hope, that this Court will finally right a grievous past wrong and give the rights to the most vulnerable among us, the unborn, and protect lives in the future rather than what has happened in the slaughter of over 63 million of our fellow citizens.

I want to thank Mr. SMITH and all the other Members who will be speaking here today for their leadership on this vital, vital issue.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to just say how much I appreciate the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for having this very, very valuable worthwhile Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the 63 million babies who have tragically been aborted since the Supreme Court's devastating decision in Roe v. Wade.

However, in the 49 years since that fatal decision, science has unmistakably proven that unborn babies can feel pain as early as 15 weeks. They even have a character. We can see it on sonograms.

But the left likes to ignore this fact. They seem to only value the type of science that supports their political agenda. It is time for the "party of science" to actually follow the science and to protect the unborn.

I will always fight for life. I am proud to be up here with my colleagues today standing up for these unborn, innocent, little human beings. I sincerely pray that the Supreme Court of the United States will make the just decision to overturn Roe v. Wade this very year.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN), my friend and colleague.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here with my colleagues