

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

who believe so fervently in doing the right thing because if you seek your wisdom from above, you will always do the right thing. I appreciate Mr. SMITH's leadership.

As we stand here remembering the 49th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, I want to remind my colleagues that standing for life—and I repeat, standing for life—has historically been a bipartisan effort. Example, the Hyde amendment, especially across Michigan's First District.

Since coming to Congress, I am proud to have stood shoulder to shoulder with my constituents as we collectively raise our voice, and our vote, for those who have neither.

□ 1300

The very first inalienable right described in the Declaration of Independence is the right to life.

As a Member of Congress I have always and will always continue to fight to correct that right for the born and the unborn.

Protecting life isn't an issue of division. In fact, it is one of unity.

We must all work together to enact better policies and build stronger communities that create a culture of life.

Together, we can create a Nation that honors life and upholds the self-evident truth that every life is precious and must be protected.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), a distinguished attorney before coming to Congress and number four in the line of leadership in the Republican Party.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for his principal leadership on this issue for so many years. He is a great model to us all.

Mr. Speaker, we in the Pro-Life Caucus are happy to join the March for Life tomorrow here in the Nation's capital, but we are here today to acknowledge the tragic anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

As has been said, more than 63 million unborn children have been denied their right to life in the past 49 years since that tragic decision was handed down.

As we fight to protect the liberties of all Americans here in Congress, we have to remember to fight first for the most defenseless, and that is the child in the womb, who from the moment of conception is a unique human being with unique DNA.

In the coming months you are going to hear a lot of vague and euphemistic language from defenders of abortion. Do not be swayed. The truth is very simple, and it has never changed. Abortion takes a baby's life, a person made in God's image.

We hope, we pray, we believe that 2022 is the year the Supreme Court will finally recognize this truth once again.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), a medical doctor. So many of our leaders in the pro-life effort both in this Congress and legislation across the country are medical doctors and healthcare professionals.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH, for his leadership in this incredibly important issue. Year after year he has stood for the unborn. Personally I want to thank him for that leadership.

Mr. Speaker, in the 49 years since the case of *Roe v. Wade* was ruled on by the Supreme Court, 63 million innocent unborn children have lost their lives to abortion.

Now, members of the radical left are trying to raise the number of abortions performed in the United States by repealing the Hyde amendment, which for decades has ensured that no taxpayer dollars are used to fund this barbaric procedure.

As a doctor, I swore an oath to "first, do no harm."

When I was in medical school I swore that I would never perform, assist, or support an abortion procedure. As a medical student, as an intern, as a resident, and as a board certified physician for 25 years, I lived up to that pledge.

As a legislator in the United States Congress I took a pledge to continue to stand for life.

Now is the time for Congress to pass legislation that defends the rights of the unborn.

Now is the time for us to end abortions in this country.

On this 49th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* let us remember the lives that have been lost and recommit ourselves to defending human life.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Thank you very much, doctor, for your leadership and eloquence.

I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. We can all agree that it is wrong to murder a person, Mr. Speaker, or in other words to take someone's life. So my pro-abortion colleagues need to answer the simple question of when does a little baby girl's life start?

Does it start at 6 weeks when the baby girl's heart starts beating? Most pro-abortion advocates oppose the 6-week heartbeat laws, so they would not consider a heartbeat to be life. What about when a little baby girl can start to feel pain around the halfway point in pregnancy? Not a single House Democrat cosponsored legislation that would affect babies who can feel pain, so it seems they don't believe in life at the halfway point either.

What about at 21 weeks, Mr. Speaker, when the baby girl could potentially survive outside the womb thanks to lifesaving medical technology? It seems simple to say if she could live outside the womb, she must be alive inside the womb, as well. Yet most pro-abortion advocates still say we should be able to kill her without a second thought.

Many of my pro-abortion colleagues also believe we should be able to abort viable babies even up through birth. Why should abortion doctors be allowed to kill a baby who has developed organs, a beating heart, and even the ability to recognize the sound of their own mother's voice? There is no excuse for aborting babies at birth, but the pro-abortion movement believes this murder should be allowed anyway.

It is time my pro-abortion colleagues start following the science and realize those little babies are human, alive, and worthy of life.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SMITH for the incredible work he is doing. He may not get his rewards here, but I assure you he will in Heaven.

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his leadership on this issue and for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 49th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* my colleagues and I come together to remember the more than 63 million children who have had their lives cut short in this country since 1973.

I stand here today for the sake of the women, for the sake of the children, and for the sake of the very future of our Nation.

Because of *Roe v. Wade* and the cases that followed its precedent, the right of the unborn to be born is denied throughout our Nation more than 2,000 times every single day, and in several States throughout all 9 months of pregnancy, which *Roe* permits.

This is a great stain on this great Nation.

We will not be silent here in Congress, nor will the hundreds of millions of pro-life Americans across this country.

My colleagues and I will continue to stand for life and fight to end the tragedy that is abortion.

We will remain steadfast supporters of life and serve as voices for the voiceless and defenders of the defenseless.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his strong statement.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for taking the lead on such an important issue.

Mr. Speaker, on the 49th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, let's reflect on the importance of standing up for every human being's right to realize their full potential from the moment of conception.

In fact, Members of Congress have a solemn duty to defend those incapable of defending themselves, the most innocent among us, the unborn.

I will share a little bit of a personal story when my family chose life. This was when my son was 3 years old. He

was involved in an accident with a head injury, and he was on life support. And many times the doctors told us he wasn't going to survive. In fact, they said it is not an 80 percent chance, not a 95 percent chance, but it was a 100 percent chance that he was going to pass. We did not disconnect life support.

We chose life. We prayed. And Freddie started to recover.

Today Freddie is fully recovered, and though his accident was decades ago, this is an opportunity to learn about the value of human life.

Our creator has a plan for each one of us, and I will continue to support policies that ensure every life has the chance to realize its fullest potential.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for sharing that beautiful story about his son Freddie.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), another good friend and colleague.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for all his great work on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 49th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*, a devastating decision that we have continued to remind you has killed 63 million children in this country.

Who do we trust on this issue? There it says: "In God We Trust." So if that is the case, this is what God said to Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:5: I knew you before I formed you in the womb. So what more evidence do we need?

This shouldn't be a political debate, but now my Democratic friends are taking it one step further by attempting to abolish the Hyde amendment, which prevents taxpayer money from funding abortions. The government should not be using hard-earned taxpayer money to kill innocent children.

However, I am optimistic that the fight for life will take a step in the right direction.

The Supreme Court is currently reviewing *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a lawsuit challenging a Mississippi law that bans abortion after 15 weeks.

I pray that the judges will rule in favor of life.

As the father of four and the grandfather of 14, I believe that life is precious, and I will fight to protect that life.

I have taken an oath to fight for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and so has every Member of this body.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for his comments.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, you wouldn't believe it, but as I was walking here today to speak about the value of life, my daughter called me, and she is headed to the hospital to give birth to my fifth grandchildren, my second granddaughter. So isn't this

an appropriate depiction right here of my next granddaughter, who is going to be named Grace.

I used to be what they call pro-choice years ago. But I was lied to. You know, they said it was just a clump of cells, just some tissues, looked like a tadpole, nothing. But, you know, as technology has gotten better, we now have ultrasounds, and in our State of Arizona we passed legislation so that the mothers could see what their babies really look like. They have little hands, little fingers, little toes. They are humans. They are real people. They are not just a clump of cells. And that is why it is so disturbing to me that here in the U.S. Congress I don't think we have one of my Democratic colleagues left that is pro-life. I think they got rid of them in the primaries.

And when Republicans have come forward and asked the Speaker of the House, please, can we vote on a bill that requires medical help to be given to babies that are born alive in a botched abortion, she said "no." What has this country come to when we don't even want to keep a baby alive after it is born?

My fellow Republicans and I are fighting hard for the value of life to protect the preborn, to protect every life. This is the most important thing that we can do.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks and wish her congratulations.

I yield to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for being a leading example on this charge for us.

Tomorrow will be a unique and significant day. Tomorrow many of us will take the unfortunately similar steps of a march that began in 1974. This March for Life however may be the last one before the stain of *Roe v. Wade* is lifted from this Nation.

However, even if we are so fortunate, the decision to continue this crime will likely remain in many of the States.

Sadly, millions of Americans have yet to awaken, awaken to the cruelty and the evil that is abortion. The reason for this slumber is no less devastating than the murder of 63 million children. It is the failure to recognize the inherent dignity of every life. This failure has justified the intentional killing of a living child, led to the many atrocities of the 21st century and this American tragedy. We, however, are not reconciled to continue this moral failing.

I often think about the abortionist who has woken up to the evil which he has been so complicit in. That moment when his heart converts, when he has been availed of the truth inherent in human life. He looks back at the trail of broken bodies that he has traveled.

But if we stop there at the horror and the tragedy, we would not have hope because we know that when he looks up he now sees those glorified souls

looking down on him, singing in praise and rejoicing in his conversion.

□ 1315

There is renewal in our movement, and there is hope. There is the hopeful anticipation that everyone in every State will also see the obvious truth and the inherent beauty in the tiniest life.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for including me in this Special Order today.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), a good friend and colleague.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I may have a slightly different tone here. I was born in an unwed mother's home in downtown L.A., and so were all my siblings. In my late thirties, I got an email out of nowhere, and it said: Hi, David. I am a friend of your sister's. Here is your information. Here is your birth mother.

We had a family discussion. I sent a very carefully worded note, and a couple of weeks later, I got this phone call, this tiny voice crying—and I am crying now also on the phone. And she is saying: I go to mass almost every day. On your birthday, I am terrified. Are you having a good life? How has your world been?

And I am crying on the other side, basically saying: Look, I have had a great life. I got adopted by a family that brought me to Arizona. I get to live in the Phoenix area. I have a wonderful brother and sister, who were also born in the unwed mother's home.

It became an amazing experience. My mom, who is right here, and this is my birth mom right here, they became best of friends. I have never told this part of the story here, but my birth mom—both of them have now passed away—had an early type of Alzheimer's, a type of dementia. But my mom here had sent her all sorts of photos of me being a child. So when you go into the house that they had there in California, there would be my two 6' tall blonde half sisters and then pictures of me as a baby growing up.

In her mind, I was always there. I was always part of the family. The dear Lord does heal.

But one of her best friends at the funeral turned to me and said: David, did Mary Lynn ever tell you the story of when we were in the car on the way to Tijuana to go get an abortion?

As they got closer and closer to the border, she began to cry. Then they got closer, and she started to hyperventilate. Eventually, she became so crushed with fear and sadness and terror, the girls turned around and went back and talked to her mother. A few months later, I was born at that Holy Family Unwed Mothers Home.

Now I am this age, and I have an adopted little girl, who is the third generation adopted in our family.

For those of us who passionately care about life, I think it is important we also tell the stories of how grateful some of us are to be alive; the amazing life my little girl is having and how grateful I am to her birth mom for giving us the greatest gift my wife and I have ever had; and understanding that the ultimate definition of love is life. Maybe others out there can have the amazing experience I have had with meeting my birth family and my family and my siblings' birth families. It is just one amazing experience of joy of life.

That needs to be what, I think, we focus on. There is good here if we just change our hearts and our minds.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much for sharing that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER), my good friend and colleague.

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from New Jersey. It is an honor to join my colleagues here during this special week.

Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, I approached the podium for the first time to give my speech on the House floor. I chose my topic intentionally as it is an issue that I will always champion: protecting the lives of the unborn. There is no effort more worthy than supporting life. This issue defines our culture, our society, and our value system.

Every year, I am overwhelmed at the outpouring of effort, energy, and support that floods this cause. So thank you, and thank you to my colleagues in the House and Senate who join me in this fight. Thank you to the health practitioners working nonstop to provide resources to help new mothers choose life. Thanks to our advocates on the ground, from the airwaves to in-person, for continually showing your support. And thank you to our pastors and religious organizations for seeking divine guidance and strength in this effort.

I am inspired by you all and will keep doing everything I can to continue this fight to protect the unborn.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), and I thank him for his leadership on his pending bill.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from New Jersey for his years of unending work for the unborn. He has been so steadfast that, from the bottom of my heart, I thank him for all he has done.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the tragedy of abortion is the greatest human rights issue of our day. The right to life is the foundation upon which all other rights are built. The science is clear: Abortion ends a human life.

Studies have proven chemical abortion puts the life of the mother in great danger. In 2015, one in three

women who took the abortion drug ended up in the emergency room within 30 days. Let me repeat that. One in three women who took the abortion drug ended up in the emergency room within 30 days.

Congress must do more to provide women and their unborn children with care and support. I am proud that my legislation, the SAVE Moms and Babies Act, would prevent the FDA from approving new abortion drugs and would stop these dangerous pills from being dispensed through telemedicine.

I would like to thank everyone in Washington, D.C., this week who is offering their unwavering dedication to defending the unborn despite a culture that often marginalizes pro-life values.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO), my friend and colleague and leader in the pro-life movement as well.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for putting on this very, very Special Order so we can address a very serious issue that is plaguing our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, a standard of unparalleled violence against an innocent population in this country. The biggest casualty caused by Roe v. Wade are the 62 million children killed before they had a chance.

Our forefathers believed that every man, woman, and child has a God-given right to life. Our Constitution makes no caveat for only those who can walk, talk, and speak.

Because of my children and my faith, protecting life is a very personal responsibility to me. As a Catholic, I can testify how faith encourages strength of character, urges truthfulness, and prioritizes the sanctity of life.

The sad truth is that you will find many of the politicians claiming to be religious actively rejecting each of these faith-founded principles. The most basic way to exercise faith is by adhering to the Ten Commandments, including thou shalt not kill.

I appreciate all of my friends and colleagues in Congress who are standing up and speaking up for those who cannot today. I am grateful to know that there are Americans who will speak and fight alongside me on behalf of millions of unborn babies who cannot defend themselves.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have always felt the 1960s was where America went off the rails. Of course, Roe v. Wade wasn't decided in exactly the 1960s, but the 1960s really, I think, began with the assassination of President Kennedy. You would say the end of that disastrous

decade was January 22, 1973, where the Supreme Court decided that abortion was legal in the United States of America. Just a disaster.

Since then, 63 million unborn children have died in every State. Ten years before that, abortion would have been considered illegal. All churches would have been appalled by it, and all Americans knew it was just a horrible thing. But then, in an example of out-of-control judiciary, probably the most extreme example in our country, the U.S. Supreme Court came in and began a reign in which 63 million unborn children have lost their lives.

The U.S. is one of seven countries where late-term abortions are illegal. We stand with Vietnam, North Korea, Red China, together with Singapore, Canada, and the Netherlands. We are one of the few countries in the world, after all God has given us, that we decide to step up and say it is appropriate to kill a child right up to birth.

In any event, today, we mourn the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. We look forward to leaving this Chamber and marching in the March for Life, as we hope that this is finally—given that there is an important Supreme Court decision coming down—finally the end, or the beginning of the end, of this ongoing slaughter of the innocent in the United States.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for reminding us that the Chinese Communist Party and North Korea both have policies like ours, especially as it relates to up-to-birth abortions.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for being a stalwart leader on this ever since I have been involved in this. I appreciate him for being courageous and strong on defending life.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, in the 49 years since the Supreme Court codified Roe v. Wade, the science behind pregnancy and its diagnosis, so to speak, has advanced exponentially. We know this year the Supreme Court will rule on a case called Dobbs v. Jackson to decide on limiting abortion access to 15 weeks of pregnancy.

As if there has been any doubt, really, of what a pregnancy means commonsense-wise, that it is a child developing—not a blob, a tissue mass, a clump of cells, or a baby giraffe. No, it is a human being.

Medical advancements like ultrasounds since that decision 49 years ago, prenatal surgeries, all these have shown the humanity of the unborn, which points to the value of life from the moment of conception, from that flash of light.

By 15 weeks in the womb, babies have fully developed hearts, can taste, can make facial expressions, and can feel pain. With today's medical advancements, a baby can survive outside the womb, incredibly, at 22 weeks and, in

some cases, even earlier with aggressive care and maybe a little bit of luck and God's blessing.

Roe v. Wade allows a baby to be born as late as 28 weeks. At 28 weeks, a baby is a living, breathing, developed person with thoughts and a future. We need revisions to Roe v. Wade. The future of our Nation, its morality, its outlook, it depends on it. Abortion is a gruesome act that destroys families, harms women's health, mentally and physically, and takes the life of the innocent.

I will always fight for the unborn, the sanctity of life, and our traditional family values this country is founded upon. It is truly a cornerstone, and it is abhorrent that lives like this can be taken needlessly when we have so many remedies.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership all these many years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this weekend, tens of thousands of men and women will fill the streets of our Capital to march for the lives of the unborn and to advocate for the rights of the most vulnerable Americans.

These men and women are advocating for an end to abortion, but they are not just seeking policy solutions. I know many of the devoted participants in the March for Life and about all the work they do in our communities to make sure that no woman ever feels alone or that abortion is her only option.

□ 1330

They staff pregnancy centers, host diaper drives, provide information on adoptions, and organize childcare for young mothers. They are doing the work of making their cities and neighborhoods a place where no one is alone and there is a support system for every mother. There is sensitive and compassionate help available to those facing an unwanted pregnancy.

Mr. Speaker, as we march for life this weekend, we march for a greater future for all of us, one that values the unborn and sees the potential in every life. I am proud to support, champion, and stand with these efforts.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I now yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER), who is also a pharmacist.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, my belief in God and my Christian faith, they are the catalyst for every decision I make. Remarkable Americans from across the country are gathering this week in Washington, D.C., to advocate for the protection of unborn children.

Written into the Declaration of Independence is our founding faith and principle that we are all created by God, created equally, endowed by our creator with the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happi-

ness. However, since the infamous Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade some 49 years ago, we have fallen short of that national edict by not acknowledging that life at every stage is precious, valuable, sacred, and should be protected.

To the many Americans marching in person this week and supporting the pro-life movement through other means, I want to say thank you for your dedication to this most worthy cause and know that you are not alone in this fight. As you continue to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves, remember that my pro-life colleagues and I stand with you.

Mr. Speaker, I promise to use this platform right here in Congress and beyond to continue my vocal and unapologetic advocacy for unborn children. I will not stop fighting until our laws and policies protect life at every stage. I hope you won't either.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), a friend and colleague for several decades.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize my colleagues this solemn day. It is the day we commemorate the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. I have said it before and continue to say, as I have many times, I am pro-life. I am pro-family. I am pro-child. I join my colleagues and constituents in Alabama's Fourth Congressional District in remembering the, literally, millions of babies that have been aborted since that 1973 decision.

Mr. Speaker, this year we are possibly on the brink of a transformational moment in our history, a moment of hope that we really haven't had for many, many years, the reversal of or major changes to Roe v. Wade.

As most of us know, in June of this year we expect the U.S. Supreme Court to hand down a decision on the Dobbs v. Jackson case. In deciding this case, the Supreme Court has the opportunity to protect the lives of unborn children after the 15-week mark of pregnancy.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all have to be clear. Even if the Supreme Court upholds the Mississippi law as it is written, abortion will not be banned nationwide. It simply gives the power back to the States. For me, my pro-life stance is deeply rooted in my Christian faith. Just as important, my opposition to abortion is about doing what is right. It is about protecting unborn babies. It is about not trying to impose my faith on anyone else.

Mr. Speaker, that is because it is also rooted in science. Like much of science, our scope of knowledge on the development of unborn babies has advanced farther than what we knew back in 1973. It is time for our laws to catch up.

At 15 weeks, an unborn baby has a heartbeat. It can open and close its fingers and hands. It can taste. It can even feel pain. No argument in favor of abortion can overcome one unchanging fact, and that is abortion stops a beating heart.

Given developments of unborn babies at 15 weeks, abortions after this timeframe often involve gruesome medical procedures that are dangerous for mothers and undoubtedly painful to the baby.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues, as we look forward, as we return back to our States, and as this issue is hopefully turned over into the hands of the States, we can make groundbreaking steps in saving the lives of the unborn.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I now yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my reasoning for voting to protect unborn American citizens. I believe that life begins at conception which is why I support adoptions, foster care, and crisis pregnancy centers that work tirelessly to care for mothers and babies.

Kansans are leading the way in protecting the right to life by placing the Value Them Both amendment on the ballot, this year's response to the Kansas Supreme Court's unthinkable ruling that abortion is a constitutional right. For my part, I have cosponsored pro-life legislation including H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, permanently prohibiting Federal funding for abortions and abortion services. I have introduced my own H.R. 714 which would require the executive branch to notify Congress and the American public before issuing any new executive order pertaining to pro-life provisions.

Mr. Speaker, abortion has desensitized our Nation. I pray we wake up soon and repent for the horrors we have visited upon America's most vulnerable, the unborn. Imagine what this country would look like economically, culturally, socially, and spiritually if abortion hadn't wiped out an entire generation of Americans, 63.4 million people over the last 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I say thank you to all of you who have joined together in this fight. Thank you for using your voices to defend the voiceless.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I now recognize the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON). As I said before, there are doctors who are outspoken in their defense of life, Dr. Thompson is one of those.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during this Special Order to reaffirm my commitment to protect and defend the sanctity of life.

From the moment I stepped foot into this Chamber in 2009, I submitted my promise to protect our most vulnerable, the unborn. In this Congress I have cosponsored 11 bills and signed on to eight letters relating to pro-life policies.

Our Founders enshrined in the Declaration of Independence three unalienable rights. The first is the right to life. Sadly, from the moment of the Roe v. Wade decision, the basic

right to life has been denied to more than 60 million unborn children. We don't know what those children would have grown up to do. Perhaps they would have cured cancer, found a solution to Alzheimer's. The possibilities are endless with the loss of those lives.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today with so many of my colleagues. We know that there is hope on the horizon. The life movement is strong, and I look forward to continuing to advocate on behalf of pro-life policies. It is my hope that one day those unalienable rights will extend to all Americans born and unborn. It is my prayer that this will be the last march for life with *Roe v. Wade* being the law of the land. When we march next year, it will be in celebration for what we have accomplished for the protection of the unborn.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD), a good friend and colleague.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of life.

This Saturday, as many of the previous speakers had alluded to, is the 49th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. As such, it is a fitting time to talk about this administration's radical anti-life policies for which some of us were caught off guard when President Biden was running for the Presidency.

Over the past year we have watched President Biden and the Democrats continually push what I would consider an anti-life full agenda. First, they gutted the Hyde amendment, a long-standing provision of appropriations bills that prevents taxpayer funding for abortions and has saved an estimated 2 million lives.

Then the Biden Administration's Department of Health and Human Services changed the rules to essentially require healthcare providers to perform abortions, despite any moral objections they may have.

Finally, my Democrat colleagues passed a radical bill that removes existing limits on abortion and allows abortions on demand, no matter the age of the fetus.

Mr. Speaker, I will always push back on their anti-life stances with a clear and strong message of full opposition. I believe that every human life is precious and should be protected at every stage. Throughout my career, I have always stood for life. I will continue to fight against this administration's anti-life policies.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today, after decades of noble struggle and sacrifice, pro-life Americans are hopeful that government-sanctioned violence against children and the exploitation of women by abortion may be nearing an end, although in a very real way the struggle to defend innocent human life now enters a critically important new phase.

Because of the *Dobbs* case, because the Supreme Court has finally seemingly accepted a relook at *Roe v. Wade* and subsequent decisions, the Federal

Government and the States-based suit have new authority to protect the weakest and the most vulnerable among us. Protection for unborn children is at a tipping point. In 2022, the Supreme Court can begin dismantling the culture of death that it has imposed on America.

Mr. Speaker, for decades and right up to this very moment, abortion supporters have gone through extraordinary lengths to ignore, to trivialize, and to cover up the battered baby victim. With stolid resolve, they defend the indefensible.

Why does dismembering a child with sharp knives, pulverizing a child with powerful suction devices, chemically poisoning a baby with any number of toxic chemicals—one method euphemistically called medical abortion—why does all of this fail to elicit so much as a scintilla of empathy, mercy, or compassion from the so-called pro-choice crowd?

Have the physical and emotional consequences of women been underreported? You bet they have. I have been in the pro-life movement for almost 50 years. Both my wife, Marie, and I do work with a lot of women who have had abortions. They tell us stories of agony that, just like the fact of the unborn child's worth and dignity, has been trivialized by the other side of this issue.

Mr. Speaker, why are children born alive during some late-term abortions not given the same standard of care and respect as premature infants born at that very same age? They are left to die, or they are just killed after they are born.

President Biden understands the gruesome reality of abortion and this injustice. At least he once did. As Senator Biden wrote to constituents in explaining his support for the Hyde amendment, for example, prohibiting taxpayer funding for elective abortions, he said it would protect both the woman and her unborn child. He stated at the time he had consistently, on no fewer than 50 occasions, voted against Federal funding of abortions. Further, those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them.

Today, the President has weaponized the entire Federal bureaucracy to aggressively promote abortion on demand at home and overseas, including full court press to force taxpayers to fund abortions on demand including the repeal of the Hyde amendment.

Last September, the House passed a bill, the abortion on demand until birth act. Of course, it had a different name that just cloaked the misery that it would impose. That bill would not only codify late-term abortions, it would also nullify nearly every modest pro-life restriction ever enacted by the States including a woman's right to know laws in 35 states, parental involvement statutes in 37 states, pain-capable unborn child protection laws in 19 states, sex-election abortion bans in

almost a dozen states and waiting periods in 26 states. By his words and his deeds, the President has become the abortion President. I think he wants to own that.

Mr. Speaker, this all comes at a time when ultrasound imaging has made unborn babies more visible, with a greater clarity than ever before. Breakthrough research has now found that unborn children can feel pain at a gestational age of 15 weeks and maybe earlier.

□ 1345

Today modern medicine treats an ever-increasing number of unborn children with disability and disease as patients in need of diagnosis and life-enhancing treatments before birth. Unborn babies are society's youngest patients and deserve protection, not death by abortion. Science informs us that birth is merely an event—albeit a very important one—in the life of the child. It is not the beginning of his or her life.

As most people know, after the ultrasound the grandparents, the parents, and the friends get pictures of the child in utero. The ultrasound pictures are the first baby pictures that are now plastered on all of our refrigerators in great expectation for that event called birth.

The right to life is the first human right, and it must be guaranteed to everyone regardless of race, age, sex, disability, stage of development, or condition of dependency. Life is not just for the planned, the privileged, or the perfect.

We need to protect these innocent children.

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

LET'S HAVE A DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleagues who have been down here on the floor of the House of Representatives for the most part of the last hour talking about the importance of defending life, those infamous—or famous or important words, I should say, in the Declaration of Independence: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Nothing can be more important than this body focusing on defending life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and my colleagues' focus on life, as we sit here now 49 years removed from a Supreme Court decision taking out of the hands of the people and putting it into the hands of unelected judges' decisions, about the beginning of life, when life begins, the important reality of a people defending life.

What is controversial about defending life?

It is a question for this body.