

shouldn't pick and choose which child is precious and which child is disposable. We should just say we all are.

This administration has been exceptionally aggressive on taking on this issue of life, pushing back from the very beginning. For instance, there is a nurse who was in the process of dealing with her employer because this nurse had informed the hospital that she worked with that she was personally opposed to abortion—morally, personally opposed to abortion. She was told: You won't have to participate in abortion. You have a conscience-right protection under U.S. law that individuals can't be compelled to have an abortion.

She worked at this hospital until one day she had a doctor and a nurse who actually compelled her to participate in an abortion or she would lose her job. She was not allowed to be able to have her conscience without losing her job.

That was in the course of litigation. In the earliest days of the Biden administration, that litigation was just dismissed, saying: We understand. It is Federal law that you should have conscience protections. But we don't agree with your opinion, and so you don't get conscience protections, only people we agree with.

That is wrong.

In my State, funding from this administration was cut off in my State for AIDS testing, for screenings, for breast cancer evaluations. That money was Federal dollars allocated to my State to help in healthcare in rural communities. That money was cut off by this administration. Do you want to know why? Because our State would not promote abortion. And the determination was made that you won't get Federal assistance for AIDS testing or for breast cancer screening or for assistance in your county health departments. We are going to cut your funds off for that if your State chooses not to promote abortion.

Our State stepped up and said: We believe every child is valuable—both of those kids—and we will find a way to do it on our own.

In the meantime, this administration is cutting off funds for AIDS testing because they don't like people in our State, our opinion about the value of life. This administration has just proposed to cut off temporary assistance for needy families to pro-life centers. As I mentioned before, some of these pregnancy resource centers give out food, clothing, and assistance. They have been a part of the TANF Program for years and years and years.

This administration proposed to be able to cut them off to say: If you assist families but also don't promote abortion, you can't actually assist families. You are not one of us.

They are literally telling to those Americans that you don't agree with the administration. So you don't count because you are actually trying to protect life. We won't help you do that.

This administration is currently trying to use the Emergency Medical

Treatment and Labor Act to force doctors to provide abortions, even though that law that they are using specifically and explicitly protects pregnant moms and unborn children. But they are currently trying to be able to twist it the other way.

This administration is currently fighting an issue on chemical abortions—chemical abortions that have been around for years. That is a two-drug cocktail where the first drug actually disconnects the child from the connection in the womb and starves them. The second pill causes that delivery. It causes the contraction of the uterus, and they have an abortion at home. It is a do-it-yourself kit for at home.

For years, that has been a very specific issue. There was only a certain specific time period that you could actually use that drug cocktail, knowing that if the child was just a few weeks older, it causes a real danger to the mom. Or if this was an ectopic pregnancy, it could actually take the life of that mom. Or if the mom has the wrong blood type, it could cause the mom not to be able to have children in the future.

In the past, a physician would have to connect with that mom before they would get this drug cocktail. This administration has continued to fight to say: No, they don't need to see a physician. They can just get it mailed to them.

And in a situation with an ectopic pregnancy, literally, the side effects from having the do-it-yourself abortion at home may look similar to the side effects of an ectopic pregnancy, but there is no way to know unless you get that ultrasound. And they will never know.

Listen, I am fully aware that this administration is aggressive about trying to provide more abortions in the country. Why would they put women's lives at risk to be able to make it more convenient to be able to have an abortion?

It is January. We are talking about this issue of abortion because the March for Life is happening. But there are literally millions of Americans all around the country who are going to continue to be able to talk about this issue of life in every way that they can because they look at these two children—literally, a few weeks apart—and they think both of them are valuable. I don't think that is a radical concept.

We live in a culture in America that is committed to tolerance, acceptance, and diversity, but it seems to be so for every area except for that child. That child doesn't get to have tolerance, acceptance, and be welcomed into a culture. That child is sometimes determined to be disposable.

I want to say to the millions of Americans who see both of these kids and who think both of them are valuable: Continue to be able to love people, to be able to walk alongside those moms, to be able to encourage in every way that you can because, as a culture,

as we keep talking about this issue, more and more people will look at these two pictures and will say: You are right. They both look like children to me. Why don't we treat them equal?

That is what we should be all about as a country, and that is why we march every cold January.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

#### COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE HARDING UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I beseech you and ask for unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 527, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 527) to commend and congratulate the Harding University football team for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II national championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 527) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I also ask the incredible Senator presiding for unanimous consent that the senior Senator from Montana be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from January 18, 2024, through January 22, 2024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024, THROUGH MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, January 22; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of

proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Koos nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I know that the Senator from Oklahoma is going to speak, so I ask—after the Senator from Oklahoma speaks, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator LANKFORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

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#### TRIBUTE TO DEREK OSBORN

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, no one reads the boring stuff better than Senator BOOKER from New Jersey, so I want to recognize his capability to be able to go through the details.

I have a staff member who has served with me for 11 years. His name is Derek Osborn. He is a remarkable gentleman. He came onto our team as an intern. He is leaving as an attorney, as a professional, as a patriot, as a friend, as a brother in many ways.

He served in just about every location we have as far as our office space. He started out in Oklahoma City. He served there; he served as an intern. We brought him on here in Washington, DC, to be able to work on Indian affairs issues and immigration—what he affec-

tionately called his forced deployment to Washington, DC. He eventually wore us out that he wanted to be able to return back to Oklahoma, which I don't blame him, and he returned to Tulsa and has led our Tulsa office and has been our deputy State director.

He is a person who is incredibly whip-smart, but he is also so warm in how he interacts with people. People love to be able to spend time with Derek just as a person, and then they ask him the hard policy questions, and he answers them because he is knowledgeable. But he is passionate first, not about issues but about people. He is also exceptionally funny, although please don't tell him so because that would just encourage him to do it even more.

We have a lot of memories and a lot of travel—across several years of traveling and working together because I have given him some of the hardest assignments to be able to work on in our team because he was capable of taking every one of them on each time.

I will never forget, though, a moment that—we were actually under the Trump administration at the time. We were heading out to Camp David for a weekend because he was doing immigration at the time, and we were going to do a working weekend on immigration at Camp David that weekend. So we headed out, headed over, got on an Osprey, and then headed out to Camp David to be able to land there and to be able to head in, and it wasn't until later that he told me he is terrified of helicopters and has been terrified and has never been on one. I got to assure him that an Osprey is actually an airplane, not a helicopter, although I couldn't convince him of that, actually, especially when the back door was open during the whole flight and he was staring right out into the abyss below us. It is a good moment for him to get a little therapy to be able to work on his fear of helicopters.

(Mr. BOOKER assumed the Chair.)

He has been great about mentoring young staff. He is great about being an encourager and somebody who is passionate about his faith and someone who really wants to be able to help our State and help our Nation.

He is the kind of staff member whom every one of us wants to have on our staff all the time, and I have a fantastic team. But in the United States, there is only one Derek. And he has proved exceptionally capable on our team and in our State, and he will be sorely missed in the position he is in.

I will still connect with him in the days ahead because he knows every barbecue place in the State, and he is a great guy just to be able to spend time with and be able to listen to.

I will still continue to be able to push him in his faith, as he pushes me in mine, and I will check in on him. And, hopefully, at some point, I will be able to attend his wedding because the boy needs to get married, and I will be there to be able to celebrate.

In the days ahead, I look forward to maintaining a friendship with someone who has been an employee and a partner in this work in this State.

So I just want to be able to say thank you to a great staff member, Derek Osborn, and I thought you should know a little bit more about him before we end this day.

With that, I yield the floor.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,  
JANUARY 22, 2024, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:07 p.m., adjourned until Monday, January 22, 2024, at 3 p.m.