

with a child who was difficult. I thank the foster parents who have opened your hearts, opened your arms, opened your homes, who've inconvenienced yourselves, but yet, you have chosen a better way, to give life in a different sort of way to children in foster homes.

I also want to thank the women who have chosen life and the parents who have encouraged their young daughters or their sons to be supportive of women in a situation where they didn't know if they would choose life or if they would choose to take life. I thank the parents.

It's easy when your child is suffering with an unplanned pregnancy to say it's okay, I'll support you, I'll take you to that abortion clinic, I will pay for that abortion. But they don't always recognize that there is a price that that young woman will pay for the rest of her life in her emotion because her arms will be forever empty, and she'll know that there is a baby that could have been hers and yet was not, or a young man who knows he could have been a father to that baby.

Parents, think again. Taking the easy way isn't always the easy way, Mr. Speaker, and for boyfriends who just heard the news that their girlfriend is pregnant, oh, my gosh, of course I will pay for the abortion you say, let's do that. You don't need this; I don't need this. We've got a whole life in front of us. Who needs this? We can do this. I will borrow the money from my parents, the boyfriend might say, Mr. Speaker, or yet he might say I'll drop you if you don't have this abortion. I'll leave you. I'll walk out on you.

There's another way. There's another choice. There's a choice called life, and it may be inconvenient and it may be embarrassing and it may be expensive, and yes, it will change your life and there may be pain, but there will be joy when you hear that first cry, when you hold that hand that literally covers your finger. And when you look in those eyes and you stroke that silky hair, there is nothing like that baby that you will see, and it will change your life as a young man. It will change your life as a young woman.

That baby has the power to change America. Every baby has the power to change this country. They are America's greatest natural resource.

I thank my parents, David and Jean, who gave me life. I thank my husband who stood by me with our five babies and who stood by me when we lost a baby. I thank you for standing by me when we didn't know if we could go on anymore, and I thank you for stepping up to the plate, for being willing to bring 23 foster children into our home so we could offer an alternative for those children and hopefully give them a down payment on a future and on a hope.

These remarks that we gave here tonight are not about condemning anyone. Who could? Who could? I couldn't condemn anyone. Who could? But it's

about lifting up people. We're here to lift up people. These remarks tonight weren't given to judge anyone. Who could? We're here to heal and offer a healing alternative.

That's why recently I introduced a bill, and it's a bipartisan bill. Democrats are on this bill. Republicans are on this bill. This is not partisan. This is about life, and this is about humanity and choosing the best that are among us, and in the Positive Alternatives Act, we just say something very simply. It says that today there are tax dollars that go to Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of abortion in the United States. Tax dollars go to Planned Parenthood.

There are not tax dollars that go to life care centers in this country, and we want to change that. We want to level the playing field.

□ 2115

And we want to give a positive alternative all across this great country so that there is a chance for men and women to say, let me think about this. Maybe I don't want to choose death. Maybe I want to choose something else. Maybe there's someone out there who can help me through a difficult time, who could help me with my medical needs, who could help me to get a job, who could help me get some education, who could help me get clothes on my back, who could help me if I want to keep this baby, who could help me if I want to give this baby to a family who maybe doesn't have a baby. It's just common decency to allow for an alternative that leads to life and not lead to guilt and to death, and perhaps remorse that even a lifetime could never erase.

We are such a great country, Mr. Speaker. I know you feel that way, I know you do. And we're a blessed country. Let's choose life. Let's choose the better way. It's the American way.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in this hour to speak for the millions of innocent voices that have been silenced due to the passage of Roe v. Wade on this day, 35 years ago.

Since the passage of Roe v. Wade, the National Right to Life estimates that nearly 50 million lives have been lost. This number is staggering.

What do the deaths of 50 million children, say about the state of our Nation? It says that the Declaration of Independence is no longer absolute, as its "unalienable" right to life only applies when it is convenient. It says that Congress can make a Federal crime out of roosters crossing State lines, but when a defenseless child is taken across state lines to have an abortion, it is merely a "right"—a choice being exercised. It says that seven unelected Supreme Court justices ignored the separation of powers, and appointed themselves as a superior legislature in order to decide the abortion issue.

But what is the good news? The good news is that citizens who believe that the Constitution protects life in all its seasons have worked to educate the public about abortion and the biological development of the unborn child, as

well as to provide support and options for women when they need it the most. As a result, abortion numbers continue to drop from a high of over 1.6 million in 1990 to 1.2 million in 2005—proving that when given the right options and the whole truth about abortion, many women will choose life.

However, even as the pro-life movement continues to have an impact all over the United States, science has opened other doors that threaten the sanctity of life in the United States. Mass production of cloned embryos to be destroyed in research promotes the same principle as abortion—that human life only matters when it is chosen to matter. We must continue to be vigilant in protecting human life at its creation—whether in the womb or in the lab.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members in this body may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order today.

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

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and January 23, 2008.

Mr. WATT (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. SHERMAN (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and January 23, 2008.

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and January 23, 2008.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and January 23, 2008.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons due to family matters.

Mr. LUCAS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of family illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. YARMUTH, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.