

Mr. Speaker, in closing, as I always do, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in His loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I ask God to bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people here in the United States of America.

And I ask God to bless President Obama, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people in America, today and tomorrow.

And three times I will say, God, please, God, please, God, please, continue to bless America.

RECENT U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL DEATHS
FROM DoD

Staff Sgt. Israel P. Nuanes; Sgt. Brian L. Walker; Pfc. Richard L. McNulty III; Spc. Alex Hernandez III; Sgt. Wade D. Wilson; 1st Lt. Alejo R. Thompson; Petty Officer Second Class Jorge Luis Velasquez; Sgt. Jacob M. Schwallie; Spc. Chase S. Marta; Pfc. Dustin D. Gross; Spc. Junot M. L. Cochilus; 2nd Lt. David E. Rylander; Staff Sgt. Thomas K. Fogarty; Sgt. John P. Huling; Master Sgt. Gregory L. Childs; Staff Sgt. Zachary H. Hargrove; Capt. Bruce K. Clark; Sgt. Nicholas M. Dickhut; Pfc. Christian R. Sannicolas; Master Sgt. Scott E. Pruitt; Staff Sgt. Andrew T. Brittonmihalo; Spc. Manuel J. Vasquez; Staff Sgt. Brandon F. Eggleston; Sgt. Dick A. Lee Jr.; Lt. Christopher E. Mosko; Spc. Moises J. Gonzalez; Spc. Jason K. Edens; Spc. Benjamin H. Neal.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY PRENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the falsely named Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act, or PRENDA. This might be one of the most disingenuous bills to ever come to the floor of the House. The authors of this bill are talking out of both sides of their mouth. Today, I want to set the record straight.

In one breath, the proponents of this bill say they are protecting female fetuses by preventing abortions based on sex and that we must pass this bill to protect women everywhere and show that girls are as valid as boys. Yet, just last week, these same Members obstructed the passage of an expanded Violence Against Women Act that would have protected all victims of violence.

The same Members who today espouse equality for women voted against the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which will help combat the discrimination against women that keeps them earning 77 cents for every dollar that men earn.

The same Members who today talk about protecting female babies continue to vote to gut the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which will be used to provide lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings to millions of the very women PRENDA's proponents claim to care so much about.

Here's the truth: this is not about women's equality. PRENDA is simply

another attempt by choice opponents to obstruct women's access to reproductive health care.

I agree with the bill's proponents that abortions based on sex are a problem around the world, and I agree that we must take action to stop these abusive practices both at home and around the world. But let me be clear that this bill will not prevent sex-selective abortions.

Here's why:

First, criminalizing such practices simply will not work. Banning sex-selective abortions has already been tried in various countries around the world, and what expert agencies such as the World Health Organization—which operate in these countries—have found is that these bans don't prevent abortions. Rather, they simply result “in a greater demand for clandestine procedures which fall outside regulations, protocols, and monitoring and basic safety.” These restrictions serve only to drive these procedures underground, making them less safe. Our own history proves this point;

Second, criminalization of sex-selective abortions would force physicians to question women about their reasons for seeking abortion. It would likely compel physicians to target certain groups of women from cultures where sex-selection abortion is more prevalent. To avoid liability, physicians may even cease providing such care to entire groups of women simply because of their race. This bill would promote racial profiling and discrimination;

Additionally, targeting such motivations in practice would be nearly impossible. According to an analysis by the World Health Organization and four other U.N. agencies, “prosecuting offenders is practically impossible.” And, further, “proving that a particular abortion was sex selective is equally difficult.”

These expert international organizations do offer a viable solution to address this issue, a solution unmentioned in H.R. 3541. Address the root causes which drive individuals to prefer sons over daughters. The United Nations, through its work in nations where sex selection is prevalent, has stated that the most effective way to address this son preference is by fighting the root economic, social, and cultural causes of sex inequality.

South Korea successfully lowered its male-to-female ratio from 116 boys for every 100 girls in the nineties to 107 boys per 100 girls in 2007. They did this by passing laws to improve the legal status of women and by implementing a public education campaign emphasizing the importance of women.

If we're going to consider this bill, let's be honest about it. Its supporters are not promoting women's equality, and they are not serious about preventing sex-selective abortions. If they were, they would be promoting programs to empower women and girls to combat son preference. Instead, they are criminalizing physicians, profiling

cultural groups, and driving abortion services underground. The truth is that this bill is another attempt to restrict women's reproductive health care wrapped in the rhetoric of women's rights.

Don't be fooled by PRENDA. Vote “no.”

□ 1030

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
MONTGOMERY GI BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take note of the 25th anniversary of the Montgomery GI Bill on June 1, and to share with my colleagues that this landmark legislation continues to pay dividends in strengthening our all-volunteer military and providing far-reaching educational opportunities for so many Americans.

I'm also proud to note that the author of this GI Bill was G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery of Mississippi. He served the Third Congressional District from 1967–1997, the same congressional district that I'm so honored to represent today. Sonny was chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for 14 years and a senior Member of the House Armed Services Committee. He understood military and veterans issues and worked tirelessly in support of a strong national defense and the men and women who served our great Nation.

All across central Mississippi, one can find many tributes to Sonny. The VA Medical Center in Jackson bears his name, as does the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery National Guard Complex in his hometown of Meridian, Mississippi.

Another facility that deserves mention is the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Center for America's Veterans at his alma mater, Mississippi State University. The professionals at the center have won national praise for their work in helping veterans, dependents, and family members transition from military life to the classroom, including administering benefits for the GI Bill. Their efforts enhanced Sonny's legacy as the champion for military and veterans causes. His 35-year background as a World War II veteran and Korean war veteran, and as a retired major general in the Mississippi National Guard, gave Sonny a unique perspective for the leadership role he played in Congress on national security and veterans issues.

The United States abolished the military draft in 1973, and by the late 1970s, the success of the all-volunteer force was in peril because the service branches had difficulty recruiting quality individuals. One high-ranking U.S. Army official referred to it as a “hollow army” and decried the need for help in crafting a plan to boost enlistments.