

surrounding islands, under compacts of free association agreements with the United States. As a consequence, the people of Guam have to share a much bigger burden than the average citizen in the U.S. mainland for the provision of medical care for the indigent and the low-income.

What we proposed, and I think all of the representatives of the territories, I know all the governors of the insular areas as well, have proposed that either the caps be lifted or the cost-sharing arrangement be altered. Preferably, we could do both.

But at a minimum, we need to provide relief to these insular areas, and the way that we can do it is to secure within the context of the current appropriations process a little bit of increase in the caps, not to raise the cap entirely, but at least to raise the dollar amount on the cap, not to eliminate caps, but to at least raise the dollar amount on the caps.

We have raised this issue; I have personally raised it with the President in a meeting on Tuesday. We have raised this issue with a number of White House officials. We raised this issue with leaders here in Congress. And although it is perhaps a little bit late in the game, it is important that if we think that health care access should be extended to all people who live in the United States, regardless of their ability to pay and regardless of their legal status at a minimum, U.S. citizens in the territories should be included.

So we hope that in the context of the negotiations and the discussions over Medicaid payments, that there will be increases lifting, not eliminating, the caps, but at a minimum at least lifting the caps for Guam and American Samoa and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Northern Marianas.

HOUSE RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Goss) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor with a great sense of pride and admiration to recognize the National Reconnaissance Office, the NRO, for 40 years of outstanding service to our Nation. Since its beginning as a small covert organization on 31 of August 1960 during the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the NRO has developed an unprecedented capability to conduct signals and photographic reconnaissance from space, a capability that to this day remains unmatched by any other nation in the world.

Part of the success during the last 4 decades is due to the partnership between American industry and the

NRO's highly capable workforce. This workforce, which consists of government civilians and military members of the four services, has consistently delivered new and innovative satellite systems that provide critical intelligence information to our national policymakers and to our military and civilian officials during periods of peace or in crisis or in war.

Its record of outstanding technological achievement has rightly earned the NRO the title of Freedom's Sentinel in Space.

As one of 13 Members of the intelligence community, the NRO has been very skillfully managed throughout its history by the Secretary of Defense and the director of Central Intelligence. Today the NRO provides systems that push the limits of reconnaissance capability to acquire enhanced images of the Earth and an ever-expanding variety and volume of electromagnetic signals. NRO space systems serve us daily from making it possible to verify arms control treaties to aiding in protecting American lives throughout the world, Americans at home and abroad.

For these many important achievements and the promise of continued excellence in space reconnaissance during the years ahead, we heartily congratulate the men and women of the NRO past and present on the occasion of the organizations's 40th anniversary.

H.R. 4292, THE BORN-ALIVE INFANTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Madam Speaker, as I thought about the subject upon which I rise to speak today, I was reminded of the words of William Butler Yeats's poem "The Second Coming," where he wrote: "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world, the blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere the ceremony of innocence is drowned."

Now, that is a pretty bleak picture, but I think it is an accurate reflection of the problem addressed by the bill I am here to discuss today.

H.R. 4292, the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, legislation that would provide legal protection to living, fully born babies who survive abortions; tiny, helpless infants brought into the world through no choice of their own and struggling to survive.

Now, surely we may say such legislation could not possibly be necessary. Surely fully born babies are already entitled to the protections of the law.

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Well, until recently, that certainly was true, but the corrupting influence

of a seemingly illimitable right to abortion, created out of whole cloth by the Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* has brought this well-settled principle into question.

Just weeks ago, for example, in *Stenberg v. Carhart*, the United States Supreme Court extended the right to abortion to include the right to partial birth abortion, a procedure in which an abortionist delivers an unborn child's body until only the head remains inside of the mother; punctures the child's skull with scissors, and sucks the child's brain out before completing the delivery.

Every time I describe that procedure, I shudder but that is the reality of what the Supreme Court of the United States has said is protected by the Constitution of the United States.

Now even more striking than the holding of the *Carhart* case is the fact that the *Carhart* court considered the location of an infant's body at the moment of death during a partial birth abortion to be irrelevant for purposes of the law. Rather, the *Carhart* court appears to have rested its decision on the pernicious notion that a partially-born infant's entitlement to the protections of the law is dependent not upon whether the child is born or unborn but upon whether or not the partially-born child's mother wants the child or not.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit made the point explicit on July 26, 2000, in *Planned Parent of Central New Jersey v. Farmer*, a case striking down New Jersey's partial birth abortion ban. According to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, under *Roe* and *Carhart* a child's status under the law is dependent not upon the child's location inside or outside of the mother's body but upon whether the mother intends to abort the child or to give birth.

The *Farmer* court stated that in contrast to an infant whose mother intends to give birth, an infant who is killed during a partial birth abortion is not entitled to the protections of the law because, and I quote, a woman seeking an abortion is plainly not seeking to give birth, closed quote.

The logical implications of these judicial opinions are indeed shocking. Under the logic of these decisions, once a child is marked for abortion it is not relevant whether that child emerges from the womb as a live baby. A child marked for abortion may be treated as a nonentity even after a live birth and would not have the slightest rights under the law; no right to receive medical care, to be sustained in life or to receive any care at all. Under this logic, just as a child who survives an abortion and is born alive would have no claim to the protections of the law, there would appear to be no basis upon which the government may prohibit an abortionist from completely delivering