

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. CONYERS moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate bill, S. 1692, be instructed to meet promptly with the managers on the part of the Senate on all issues committed to conference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XX, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) each will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support the current motion to recommit by Mr. CONYERS.

Like the House Bill that was unfortunately passed in April, this act, despite its title is nothing more than an attempt to inhibit a woman's constitutional right to choose.

Although the majority conveniently skirts the issue of the 1973 Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade*, this law is still in effect and we must recognize a woman's right to have an abortion especially if her life is threatened.

Yes, it is true that technological advancement in the medical field has enabled women to better monitor their pregnancies so that they may bring healthy children into this world. However, some pregnancies may involve problems that may threaten the life and/or health of the mother.

For example, continuing the pregnancy may result in severe heart disease, malignancies and kidney failure. In these situations, when a woman is faced with a life or death decision, she must have the right to make a choice whether to continue her pregnancy.

The procedure referred to in S. 1692/H.R. 3660 has been used to protect the mother's life but many times these late term abortions are primarily done when the abnormalities of the fetus are so extreme that independent life is not possible.

Many times in the issue of abortion we tend to glorify a potential life but refuse to acknowledge the actual living human being that has conceived that life.

This actual living human being has rights enumerated in the Constitution that can not be infringed upon regardless of what type of abortion is being performed especially if it is to save the life of mother.

If society picks and chooses which type of abortion one should have then once again we are taking away the right of a woman to choose.

If this conference report is supported by the majority, this S. 1692/H.R. 3660 would put the government in the doctor's office and leave the health of women unprotected.

I would be amiss if I did not highlight the fact that the terminology being employed by proponents of this bill is a term with absolutely no medical or scientific meaning.

On the contrary, this term is a being used solely to enrage and misguide the public. In fact, this term was actually adopted from a

speech given by an anti-abortion advocate. Hence, the attempt to assuage our concerns that this legislation is not an attempt to circumvent a woman's constitutional right is simply untrue.

Therefore, I will not use this propagandist term "partial birth" abortion, but instead give this bill the title it deserves, the "Abortion Ban of 2000."

S. 1692/H.R. 3660 is another attempt to put politics before women's health. The overwhelming majority of courts have to have ruled on challenges to state so-called "partial-birth abortion" bans have declared those bans unconstitutional.

Despite the passage of abortion bans in state legislatures throughout the country, on election day in both 1998 and 1999, ballot initiatives that would have enacted this type of law were defeated in Washington, Colorado and finally Maine. The people of this country do not support this type of law.

In fact, only 12 states have abortion bans in effect, but 9 of these states have not yet been challenged.

Furthermore, Six federal district courts have issued permanent injunctions against statutes virtually identical to S. 1692/H.R. 3660 and the Supreme Court is set to decide on this issue in *Stenberg v. Carhart*.

I agree with my democratic colleagues that any action by Congress would be premature and even mooted by the Court's decision.

Notwithstanding the potentially mootness of this discussion, proponents of this legislation not only mischaracterize the reasons underlying the use of late term abortions, but they failed to even recognize the constitutional rights espoused by the Supreme Court in *roe* and reaffirmed in *Casey*.

The ambiguity of this legislation further frustrates the rights of women in the Nation and chills legitimately protected rights.

This legislation could essentially ban more one type of procedure because it fails to distinguish between abortions before and after viability.

These are just some of the many problems with S. 1692/H.R. 3660 and these alone should make anyone question the appropriateness of such legislation.

We can not straddle the fence on this issue. It is either to protect the rights of women or take them away completely.

Women have fought hard and long to have autonomy over their bodies and by putting restrictions on what type of abortions she is allowed to receive would put women back in the era of *Pre-Roe v. Wade*.

By banning partial birth abortions not only are we taking the right of women to have autonomy over their bodies and the right of families to determine their future, but we are also taking the right of women to live their lives as healthy American citizens and treating them like prisoners in their own country.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, we have no speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to the motion to instruct conferees, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

The motion to instruct was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. HYDE, CANADY of Florida, GOODLATTE, CONYERS, and WATT of North Carolina.

There was no objection.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for 10 minutes.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess for 10 minutes.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at 11 o'clock and 57 minutes a.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3916, TELEPHONE EXCISE TAX REPEAL ACT

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 511 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 511

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3916) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communication services. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.