

Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Jordan, distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for holding this Bipartisan Member Day Hearing—it is an honor to speak before the Committee this morning.

One of my longstanding commitments as a member of Congress has been to promote a culture of life. I have cosponsored and voted for measures that respect the sanctity of human life and encourage alternatives to abortion. I have also voted against legislation that would have allowed public funds to be used for abortions and will continue to do so. I am proud to join my good friend from Missouri, Ann Wagner, as well as 200 of my colleagues in supporting H.R. 619, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. H.R. 619 requires that health care practitioners who are present at the live birth exercise skill, care, and diligence to preserve the life and health of a child who survived an attempted abortion with the same degree of care that would be offered to any other child born prematurely at the same gestational age. After those efforts, the health care workers must transport and admit the child to a hospital. This bill also gives the mother a civil cause of action and protection from prosecution, recognizing that women are the second victims of abortion and promoting the dignity of motherhood. I urge the committee to advance this important lifesaving bill to a vote of the whole House, because I would hope, we can all agree that a child born alive has a right to live.

Another top priority of mine is supporting our law enforcement officers. During my time in Congress, I have worked with local law enforcement agencies to ensure they have the support they need to properly protect and serve our communities. I routinely meet with the Pasco and Pinellas County Sheriffs Office's and local police agencies to hear how they are working to keep our communities safe, and how the federal government can be of assistance to them.

Through these meetings, I have brought community leaders together with local law enforcement. It is critical that law enforcement and local residents have an open line of communication in order to understand the issues that each face and how they can best work together. This is something that is vitally important, and I am proud to be able to facilitate these types of discussions. I'm committed to ensuring the safety and security of all communities by opposing efforts to defund the police, increasing funding for better police training, community policing, and equipment, including body cameras. Let me be clear for the record: I have never and will never support defunding the police.

Unfortunately, our nation has seen an uptick in attacks on law enforcement officers. In fact, The National Fraternal Order of Police found that 51 law enforcement officers were shot, 13 of whom died, in 40 ambush-style attacks as of June 30, a 91% jump from the same time last year. In all of 2020, there were 48 ambush-style attacks, which left 60 officers wounded, 12 fatally, according to the group's 2020 summary. I am a cosponsor of two pieces of legislation that address the safety of our law enforcement officers, H.R. 3080, the Back the Blue Act, and H.R. 3079, the Protect and Serve Act.

The Back the Blue Act establishes new criminal offenses for killing, assaulting, and fleeing to avoid prosecution for killing a judge, law enforcement officer, or public safety officer. The Protect and Serve Act, which was introduced by my Good Friend, fellow Floridian, and former

Duval County Sheriff John Rutherford, establishes a new criminal offense for knowingly assaulting a law enforcement officer and causing serious bodily injury (or attempting to do so) in circumstances that affect interstate commerce. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle say they are capable of supporting the police and the safety of their communities. Let's come together and do that, so we can save lives. I urge this committee to protect law enforcement officers and advance these critical pieces of legislation to the floor for a vote.

I would like to thank the Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee again for inviting me to testify today, and I yield back.