

The Energy and Commerce Committee, which I am the ranking member and former chairman of, we worked most of this year on legislation to ban the manufacture, processing, and distribution of asbestos.

We found common ground. We worked together. We voted it out of committee by a 47-1 vote. We fully anticipated the work product of the Republicans and Democrats in that committee to be brought to the floor under suspension, as approved by the committee.

Sadly, Democrats on Friday night listed the bill, but they had rewritten parts of it without ever consulting with Republicans and tried to cram it through the process.

Now, after many days of trying to work this out between us, and we have offered many alternatives to try and accommodate our majority colleagues, they are trying to blame Republicans for this bill not coming to the floor.

Well, I will tell you what, bring the bill we passed out of committee to the floor and we will vote for it, and it will pass overwhelmingly.

You are the majority party. You just brought a \$2.2 trillion bill to the floor; you can bring this one under a rule. Do that. Keep your word.

Let's work together and ban asbestos.

#### FINDING A PATH FORWARD TO BAN ASBESTOS

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, since last Friday, I have been working in good faith to find a path forward on a bill to ban asbestos. Democrats ended that effort yesterday evening.

The bill passed the Energy and Commerce Committee with bipartisan support last November, but the majority added new language just last Friday.

One minute is not enough to detail my concerns with that language or to describe every offer our side made to try to reach agreement. The committee record will have to speak for itself.

The record shows the bill passed 47-1. Every Democrat on the committee voted for it. It shows the bill does not affect talc litigation. And it shows exactly which special interest objected, trial lawyers who didn't get exactly what they wanted.

I want to offer my apologies to Linda Reinstein, who has been a tireless advocate for more than a decade and has fought the good fight in honor of her late husband, Alan, for whom this bill is named.

We know the 47-1 bill I have right here could pass.

#### REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 1603, ALAIN REINSTEIN BAN ASBESTOS NOW ACT OF 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Education and Labor be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1603, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee on Energy and Commerce on November 19, 2019, by a vote of 47 yeas and 1 nay.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

□ 0915

#### CONDEMNING UNWANTED, UNNECESSARY MEDICAL PROCEDURES ON INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT THEIR FULL, INFORMED CONSENT

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1164, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 1153) condemning unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures on individuals without their full, informed consent, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1164, the amendment to the resolution, printed in House Report 116-557, is adopted and the resolution, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the resolution, as amended, is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1153

Whereas there is a shameful history in the United States of Black, Indigenous, people of color, immigrants, poor people, and people with disabilities being subjected to medical procedures without their informed consent;

Whereas 32 States passed eugenic-sterilization laws, resulting in the sterilization of between 60,000 to 70,000 people beginning in the early 1900s;

Whereas 25 percent of Native American women of childbearing age were sterilized over the course of 6 years after the passage of the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970;

Whereas incarcerated individuals have continued to face sterilization practices, including nearly 150 incarcerated women in California prisons sterilized between 2006 and 2010;

Whereas, on September 14, 2020, a coalition of organizations, including Project South, Georgia Detention Watch, Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, and South Georgia Immigrant Support Network, filed a complaint to the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General expressing concerns about the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Georgia, including detained immigrant women receiving unnecessary hysterectomies and a lack of informed consent for gynecological procedures;

Whereas a growing number of women are coming forward to share stories of unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures, including full or partial hysterectomies and other procedures involving their reproductive organs, performed without their knowledge or consent;

Whereas, on September 16, 2020, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement nearly deported a woman who was formerly detained at Irwin County Detention Center who had one fallopian tube removed without her knowledge or consent;

Whereas, on September 18, 2020, 4 women came forward saying that they did not approve of the procedures they received;

Whereas an initial review of available medical records by independent gynecologists raises serious questions about whether patients detained at the Irwin County Detention Center provided informed consent and whether prevailing standards of care were adhered to in their care; and

Whereas these allegations indicate a failure by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to conduct rigorous oversight to protect the health and safety of people in its custody: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns performing unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures on individuals without their full, informed consent;

(2) recognizes that everyone deserves to control their own reproductive choices and make informed choices about their bodies;

(3) recognizes that further accountability, oversight, and transparency is necessary to protect people in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

(4) calls on the Department of Homeland Security to—

(A) pause the removal of any individual who experienced any medical procedure at the Irwin County Detention Center;

(B) allow individuals who may have experienced an unnecessary or nonconsensual procedure to have immediate access to adequate, safe, and consensual medical treatment or to seek a second opinion from an independent medical professional;

(C) immediately comply with all investigations and records requests related to investigations about the Irwin County Detention Center;

(D) ensure impacted individuals are able to freely participate in any investigation and share their stories without fear of reprisal; and

(E) hold all individuals found to be involved in any unnecessary or nonconsensual medical procedure at the Irwin County Detention Center accountable and bring them to justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1154.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, imagine this: You are an immigrant woman detained in a detention center. Perhaps you have been

asking for help for months about a painful medical condition or perhaps you have had no medical complaints at all.

You are suddenly woken up early in the morning. You are put in shackles and taken not to a general practitioner, but to a gynecologist.

That gynecologist performs ultrasounds, inserts tools, even his own hands into your body without any consent or any lubrication. You are in pain. You do not know what is being done to you. You feel violently sexually assaulted.

The doctor tells you that you have a major problem, cysts that must be operated on, from that simple examination he did. You don't want surgery and you even say so. He says: Okay, I will give you a shot instead.

And because you are scared, you take the shot, but you don't know what it is. You haven't been told what it is. You certainly have no idea that, in fact, this is a shot that is an injectable contraceptive that temporarily prevents you from having children and can have other serious side effects, including bleeding.

Now you are bleeding. You are scared, and you don't know what is happening. You go back to see the gynecologist, and he tells you this is why he said you must have surgery.

You have doubts. You want a second opinion. But you are told you cannot have a second opinion, and it is either this or you will never get any care again—after all, you are in detention.

You finally, perhaps in some cases, agree to the surgery thinking that you are just having cysts removed, but you wake up and you find out that you have had a full or partial hysterectomy, one of your fallopian tubes has been removed or perhaps some other surgery that you weren't expecting.

Imagine that someone has just taken away or severely compromised your ability to have children without ever telling you or asking your consent for what they are doing.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we are here today, to vote on House Resolution 1153, to condemn unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures conducted on women without their full, informed consent, to ensure the safety, health, and presence of the women at the Irwin County Detention Center, and to mandate full compliance of ICE with the requirements of the ongoing investigation.

The story I just described is just one of the many stories we have now heard from women who are either currently or were formerly detained at the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Georgia.

Please understand that 90 percent of the people detained at this facility are completely unrepresented by any attorney. Moreover, like all detention facilities, Irwin has been plagued with COVID. People detained here report not receiving adequate PPE, and there have been multiple cases of COVID.

Since this horrific story emerged through a whistleblower report 2 weeks ago, a few attorneys who are representing some of the women have brought forward more stories.

Independent gynecologists have reviewed the available medical records.

The New York Times launched an independent investigation, asking independent gynecologists to review the records of seven women who were able to obtain their medical files. What they found is deeply disturbing.

The doctors noted that the gynecologist "seemed to consistently recommend surgical intervention, even when it did not seem medically necessary at the time and nonsurgical treatment options were available."

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a September 29 New York Times article, titled: "Immigrants Say They Were Pressured Into Unneeded Surgeries."

[From the New York Times, Sept. 29, 2020]  
IMMIGRANTS SAY THEY WERE PRESSURED INTO UNNEEDED SURGERIES

IMMIGRANTS DETAINED AT AN ICE-CONTRACTED CENTER IN GEORGIA SAID THEY HAD INVASIVE GYNECOLOGY PROCEDURES THAT THEY LATER LEARNED MIGHT HAVE BEEN UNNECESSARY  
(By Caitlin Dickerson, Seth Freed Wessler and Miriam Jordan)

Wendy Dowe was startled awake early one morning in January 2019, when guards called her out of her cellblock in the Irwin County immigration detention center in rural Georgia, where she had been held for four months. She would be having surgery that day, they said.

Still groggy, the 48-year-old immigrant from Jamaica, who had been living without legal status in the United States for two decades before she was picked up by immigration authorities, felt a swell of dread come over her. An outside gynecologist who saw patients in immigration custody told her that the menstrual cramping she had was caused by large cysts and masses that needed to be removed, but she was skeptical. The doctor insisted, she said, and as a detainee—brought to the hospital in handcuffs and shackles—she felt pressured to consent.

It was only after she was deported to Jamaica and had her medical files reviewed by several other doctors that she knew she had been right to raise questions.

A radiologist's report, based on images of her internal organs from her time at Irwin, described her uterus as being a healthy size, not swollen with enlarged masses and cysts, as the doctor had written in his notes. The cysts she had were small, and the kind that occur naturally and do not usually require surgical intervention.

"I didn't have to do any of it," Ms. Dowe said.

The Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Ga., drew national attention this month after a nurse, Dawn Wooten, filed a whistle-blower complaint claiming that detainees had told her they had had their uteruses removed without their full understanding or consent.

Since then, both ICE and the hospital in Irwin County have released data that show that two full hysterectomies have been performed on women detained at Irwin in the past three years. But firsthand accounts are now emerging from detainees, including Ms. Dowe, who underwent other invasive gynecological procedures that they did not fully understand and, in some cases, may not have been medically necessary.

At least one lawyer brought the complaints about gynecological care to the attention of the center's top officials in 2018, according to emails obtained by The New York Times, but the outside referrals continued.

The Times interviewed 16 women who were concerned about the gynecological care they received while at the center, and conducted a detailed review of the medical files of seven women who were able to obtain their records. All 16 were treated by Dr. Mahendra Amin, who practices gynecology in the nearby town of Douglas and has been described by ICE officials as the detention center's "primary gynecologist."

The cases were reviewed by five gynecologists—four of them board-certified and all with medical school affiliations—who found that Dr. Amin consistently overstated the size or risks associated with cysts or masses attached to his patients' reproductive organs. Small or benign cysts do not typically call for surgical intervention, where large or otherwise troubling ones sometimes do, the experts said.

The doctors stressed that in some cases the medical files might not have been complete and that additional information could potentially shift their analyses. But they noted that Dr. Amin seemed to consistently recommend surgical intervention, even when it did not seem medically necessary at the time and nonsurgical treatment options were available.

In almost every woman's chart, Dr. Amin listed symptoms such as heavy bleeding with clots and chronic pelvic pain, which could justify surgery. But some of the women said they never experienced or reported those symptoms to him.

Both the reviewing doctors and all of the women interviewed by The Times raised concerns about whether Dr. Amin had adequately explained the procedures he performed or provided his patients with less invasive alternatives. Spanish-speaking women said a nurse who spoke Spanish was only sporadically present during their exams.

The diagnoses and procedures are "poorly supported" and "not well documented," said Dr. Sara Imershein, a clinical professor at George Washington University and the Washington, DC, chair of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Even if the patients had reported the symptoms recorded by Dr. Amin, "there would have been many avenues to pursue before rushing to surgery," she said. "Advil for one."

"He is overly aggressive in his treatment and does not explore appropriate medical management before turning to procedures or surgical intervention," said Dr. Deborah Ottenheimer, a forensic evaluator and instructor at the Weill Cornell Medical School Human Rights Clinic.

But the doctors who reviewed the cases noted that aggressive overtreatment is all too common among doctors—especially with patients who do not have the resources to seek a second opinion.

Dr. Ada Rivera, medical director of the ICE Health Service Corps, said in a statement that the whistle-blower's allegations "raise some very serious concerns that deserve to be investigated quickly and thoroughly." She added, "If there is any truth to these allegations, it is my commitment to make the corrections necessary to ensure we continue to prioritize the health, welfare and safety of ICE detainees."

Dr. Amin's lawyer, Scott Grubman, said in a statement that the physician "strongly disputes any allegations that he treated any patient with anything other than the utmost care and respect."

“Dr. Amin also strongly disputes that any patient was treated without full informed consent,” the statement continued. Mr. Grubman said that patient privacy laws prevented him from discussing any specific patient’s treatment, but in each case it “was medically necessary, performed within the standard of care, and done only after obtaining full informed consent.”

The statement added that Dr. Amin always uses an interpreter when treating patients who do not speak English and “always attempts to treat his patients with more conservative treatment, including medicine and less invasive procedures, before even recommending surgery,” which he views as a last resort.

Independent doctors that provide treatment for ICE detainees are paid for the procedures they perform with Department of Homeland Security funds. Procedures like the ones that Dr. Amin performed are normally billed at thousands of dollars each.

Dr. Amin’s billings had previously come to the attention of federal authorities. In 2013, the Justice Department named him in a civil case alleging that he and several other doctors had overbilled Medicare and Medicaid by, among other things, performing unnecessary procedures on terminal patients and leaving the emergency room staffed by nurses while billing for diagnoses and treatments as if they had been performed by doctors. The case was settled for \$520,000 with no admission of fault on the part of the defendants.

#### ‘I COULD NOT ASK ANY QUESTIONS’

In many cases, Dr. Amin’s patients said they were confused about why they ended up being sent to his office in the first place—some after raising medical issues that had nothing to do with gynecology.

Yuridia, a 36-year-old immigrant from Mexico, sought out a nurse at the center soon after she arrived because she was having pain in her rib after a fight with her abusive ex-partner just before she was picked up by ICE. She asked to be identified by her first name because she feared for her safety.

She was sent for a medical exam at Dr. Amin’s office, where she said he began to prepare an ultrasound machine. “I was assuming they were going to check my rib,” she said. “The next thing I know, he’s doing a vaginal exam.”

Dr. Amin recorded in his notes that Yuridia had cysts in her ovaries and scheduled a surgery to remove them. He also wrote that she had complained of heavy menstruation and pelvic pain. She said that she never experienced or reported those conditions and that she had not asked to see a gynecologist.

Weeks later, she underwent surgery. Pathology reports show that she did not have dangerous cysts, but small ones of the kind that occur naturally in most women and do not call for surgical intervention.

Yuridia said she had expected only a minor procedure that would be performed vaginally, but she was surprised when she woke up to find three incisions on her abdomen and a piece of skin missing from her genital area.

“I woke up and I was alone, and I was in pain and everyone spoke English so I could not ask any questions,” Yuridia said. Three days later, still sore and recovering, she was deported.

Yuridia’s case bears striking similarities to others that the panel of doctors reviewed. Many of them led to two surgical procedures performed simultaneously: “dilation and curettage,” often referred to as a “D & C,” which involves inserting tools into a woman’s vagina and scraping tissue from the uterus, and laparoscopy, in which three inci-

sions are made to insert a camera into the abdominal cavity to examine or perform procedures on the reproductive organs.

The cases suggest a pattern of “excessively aggressive surgical intervention without adequate trial of medical remedies,” Dr. Ottenheimer said.

#### A REPORT REVEALS LONGSTANDING COMPLAINTS

It was the Irwin County center’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic that inspired Ms. Wooten, the nurse whose whistle-blower complaint was first reported by The Intercept, to come forward about another issue that troubled her: Dr. Amin’s surgeries. She said in an interview that she had for years noticed that an inordinate number of women were being referred to Dr. Amin. She said she would hear reports that they had undergone surgeries but that they had no idea why the surgeries were performed.

“After they get up from general anesthesia,” Ms. Wooten said, the women would ask, “Why’d I have this surgery?”

“And I don’t have an answer for why,” she said. “I am just as shocked as they are. Nobody explained it to them.”

Data from ICE inspection reports show that the center, which is operated by a private prison company, Lasalle Corrections, refers more than 1,000 detainees a year for outside medical care, far more than most other immigration detention centers of the same size. It is not clear how many of these referrals are for gynecological care. Lasalle Corrections did not respond to requests for comment.

Concerns from women detained at Irwin emerged long before Ms. Wooten came forward.

Ms. Dowe, after being told by Dr. Amin that she had a mass the size of a “cantaloupe” on her uterus, had reached out in early 2019 to Donald Anthonyson, an immigrant advocate she had met through a fellow detainee. She was asking for help, Mr. Anthonyson said.

“She expressed real concerns about going to that doctor,” he said. “She was concerned about what was happening to her and what she was hearing from other women.”

Unlike some of the women who had no gynecological complaints, Ms. Dowe was experiencing intense menstrual cramping, which the doctors who reviewed her case said could sometimes justify the procedure she underwent—but only if the patient understands the options and elects to move forward. Even then, the doctors raised questions about several seemingly healthy and naturally occurring cysts that Dr. Amin might have removed unnecessarily while he was operating on her.

After the procedure, Dr. Amin wrote in his notes that Ms. Dowe requested a second surgery—a full abdominal hysterectomy and removal of her ovaries.

But Ms. Dowe insists she never made any such request. A note in her medical records from the detention center appears to corroborate her denial. “Detainee is requesting a second opinion to have a hysterectomy,” it reads, “OB/GYN scheduled hysterectomy and patient refused.”

Complaints about Dr. Amin had also been raised with senior officials long before Ms. Dowe’s case.

In November 2018, a woman named Nancy Gonzalez Hidalgo was left shaken after several visits with the physician, during which she said he performed rough vaginal ultrasounds and ignored her when she cried out in pain. Ms. Gonzalez Hidalgo’s lawyers sent an email to the warden of the center, David Paulk.

In the email, Erin Argueta, a lawyer at the Southern Poverty Law Center, explained that Ms. Gonzalez Hidalgo’s health was wors-

ening because of complications she was experiencing from an earlier miscarriage.

“Nancy hesitated to seek medical attention because her last experience with Dr. Amin was so painful and traumatic that she did not want to be sent back to him,” Ms. Argueta wrote.

She referred in her email to several previous verbal complaints about Dr. Amin that lawyers had taken to the center’s inmates services director, Marteka George. “Ms. George stated that this was not the first time someone complained about Dr. Amin, and she said that she would look into whether Nancy could see a different provider,” the lawyer wrote.

The warden responded twice, stating on Nov. 30 that Ms. Gonzalez Hidalgo had been scheduled for an appointment with an outside provider “that is unassociated with Dr. Amin.” The other doctor, Warden Paulk said, was “reportedly well thought of by his patients.”

Warden Paulk did not respond to requests for comment.

Other women who questioned Dr. Amin’s care in the past said they had also faced challenges when they tried to seek answers.

On the morning of Aug. 14, Mileidy Cardentey Fernandez said, there was no interpreter present at the Irwin County Hospital when she was presented with consent forms in English to sign for a procedure she was undergoing that day.

She asked the technician, “Spanish, please? Little English.” The woman urged her to sign the forms—and so she did.

Afterward, she said, she filled out a form on numerous occasions at the detention center requesting her medical records but got no response.

“I wanted to know everything they had done,” she said. “I made requests for the biopsy, analyses, and they don’t want to give them to me. They said they don’t have the results. How can they not have the results?”

When she was released from detention on Sept. 21, she called her daughter in Virginia and then headed straight to Dr. Amin’s clinic with her lawyer to demand her records, which she received.

Some women said they had managed to avoid surgeries by Dr. Amin but not without facing resistance.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, this is about full or partial sterilization and a total lack of consent from the patient. And let’s be very clear: Even if a procedure or test is medically necessary, a doctor must have informed consent from their patient. This is the most basic tenet of medical ethics.

Last weekend, 10 Members of Congress visited the detention center and we spoke directly to the women. We saw their pain and shock and horror about the irreparable damage that has been done to them and their futures.

I have here letters from dozens of women at the center detailing some of these things that they have seen and experienced, including these unnecessary medical procedures. To bring their voices directly into this Chamber, let me read from one of them.

A woman married to a U.S. citizen and with children of her own:

My experience here has been full of fear and terror. It began when I asked for medication for my abdomen. My surprise when I was taken to the gynecologist, he didn’t explain nothing and just told me to lay down and inserted something and said I had a cyst the

size of a nail. I was injected and didn't say for what, and said the results would be here in 3 weeks; if not, I would come back. When everything that's been happening has come to light, I was never taken back thanks to God because, if not, I would have had surgery.

This resolution is simple. It mandates that a real investigation must happen. Even just this morning we had to once again ensure that a woman who had this surgery done to her was not once again arrested. We need to allow these women to heal as we get this investigation done in the speediest of manners.

Passing this resolution also sends a clear message to doctors contracted by the private for-profit incarceration facilities everywhere: We will not stand by and allow you to treat people this way. We will not stand by and allow history to repeat itself, a shameful history of medical abuse targeting Black people, indigenous people, people of color, immigrants, poor people, and people with disabilities for medical procedures without consent.

To the women at Irwin, those lucky enough to have been released and those who have already been deported: You are brave and resilient. You should know that the United States Congress, with the passage of this resolution, is saying to you: We see you; we hear you; and we will not stop fighting for you.

I thank my colleagues and coleads of this resolution, Representatives ANNIE KUSTER, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, SYLVIA GARCIA, and LOIS FRANKEL, for introducing this resolution with me that now has the support of 225 Members of Congress and, also, the Women's Caucus for their tremendous attention to this resolution, as well as the Congressional Hispanic Caucus that helped lead the codel with the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my chief of staff is a former naval captain who commanded the aircraft carrier USS *Constellation* in the 1990s. I once asked him what was the most important thing he had learned during his distinguished naval career, and he said: The first reports are always wrong.

That is why I would urge my friends on the other side of the aisle to take a step back and await the investigations that are now underway to determine exactly what happened at the Irwin County Detention Center, lest they appear in retrospect to have behaved, well, rather prematurely and foolishly.

This resolution affirms allegations that women detained by ICE for the crime of illegally crossing the border underwent unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures, including full or partial hysterectomies and other procedures involving their reproductive

organs performed without their knowledge or consent.

Well, if that is true, it is appalling, and those responsible should be held fully accountable.

The acting ICE Director, Tony Pham, said precisely that on September 18. He said: "The recent allegations by the independent contracted employee raised some very serious concerns that deserve to be investigated quickly and thoroughly. ICE welcomes the efforts of both the Office of Inspector General as well as the Department of Homeland Security's parallel review.

"As a former prosecutor, individuals found to have violated our policies and procedures should be held accountable. If there is any truth to these allegations, it is my commitment to make the corrections necessary to ensure that we continue to prioritize the health, welfare, and safety of ICE detainees."

Of course, this resolution makes no acknowledgment of Mr. Pham's statement or of the investigations that are now underway.

The reality is, at this point, we do not have all the facts.

We do know that the complaint by the group Project South, which instigated the allegations, did not contain testimony from a single woman who had a hysterectomy while detained at the Irwin County Detention Facility.

We know that ICE has an annual third-party inspection of its detention facilities, including the medical care at those facilities.

We know that ICE has performance-based national detention standards, which include high standards for women's medical care.

We know that the 2019 third-party inspection conducted by the Nakamoto Group found that the Irwin County Detention Center met ICE's performance-based national detention standards.

We know that on September 18 the Associated Press reported: "The AP's review did not find evidence of mass hysterectomies as alleged in a widely shared complaint filed by a nurse at the detention center."

That is the Associated Press.

□ 0930

We know that on September 22, The Washington Post reported that since 2017, only two women in immigration custody were referred to the Irwin County Hospital for hysterectomies and that there are no other facilities in the region that perform that procedure. ICE reports there may have been three. But the attorney for the hospital calls the claims that we have just heard demonstrably false. His words, "demonstrably false."

We know that on September 15, The Washington Post reported that the lawyer who filed the lawsuit on behalf of the pro-illegal-immigration group "acknowledged to The Washington Post that she did not speak to any women who had a forced sterilization, and said she included the allegations in

the report with the intention of triggering an investigation into whether or not the claims were true."

Whether or not the claims were true. Well, we are going to find out, and once we have all the facts, we can make rational decisions about what to do, but this resolution simply assumes the allegations are true and condemns the institution as if they were true. It then calls for indefinite postponement of the deportation of any illegal immigrant at this facility that has any medical procedure, which I assume would include routine medical screenings.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the House this very simple question: Wouldn't it be better to let the investigation take its course, have all the facts laid out before us, and then take appropriate actions?

If the allegations are true, every bit of the indignation expressed in this resolution and by my Democratic colleagues would be justified, and a united, bipartisan Congress would demand and command redress and reform.

But if the allegations are found not to be true, this House, that is already plumbing the depths of public ridicule and derision, will once again have diminished its credibility and its moral authority to speak out on this or any other issue.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), my good colleague on the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, for most of the past century, the United States has led the world in the promotion of human rights. People from all over the world have long come to America seeking refuge and a better life. And in our best moments, we welcome them with open arms.

Yet under the Trump administration, immigrants have been met with great hostility. On Trump's watch, children have been separated from their families and endured unspeakable trauma in DHS custody.

In just the past few weeks, new and horrific allegations have emerged about the use of forced sterilization on immigrant women by ICE, allegations so serious and sickening, that they demand a swift and thorough investigation.

According to one nurse who worked at the Irwin County Detention Center in Georgia, immigrant women received unnecessary hysterectomies, records were destroyed, and migrants were not tested for COVID-19.

In the words of one immigrant held at the facility, "When I met all these women who had surgeries, I thought this was like an experimental concentration camp. It was like they are experimenting with our bodies."

Mr. Speaker, these allegations are horrifying.

If true, they are a gross violation of human rights and a violation of the

most basic ethics that medical professionals are sworn to uphold.

What is more, there is a long history of forced sterilizations, like the procedures found in these allegations, being used against people of color, religious minorities, prisoners, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable communities.

Such procedures are not only wrong, but they rise to the level of gross human rights abuses.

That is why it is so important that these shocking and staggering allegations be investigated now and anyone who participated in such abuses be held fully accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I want to end by thanking all of my colleagues, but in particular, my friend Congresswoman PRAMILA JAYAPAL, a champion for human rights here and around the world, someone who has led this effort and authored H. Res. 1153 to condemn forced medical procedures on individuals without their full, informed consent. I thank her for her leadership and for this powerful message that we are sending to ICE and to the world that we will not tolerate this kind of behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON), my good colleague, who was on the delegation with us.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of this resolution offered by my colleague, my dear colleague, PRAMILA JAYAPAL and others. I thank her for her hard work.

Halloween is getting close, but it is Halloween every day at the Irwin County Detention Center.

Many of the police officers just outside the facility when we arrived were not wearing masks, and it was only the day before our visit that detainees were issued masks. Prior to that, many had worn the mask they had had on when they were first booked into the facility many months ago. Some had been wearing old panties as masks.

But the horror stories were the experiences these women told of being subjected to gynecological surgery, intrusions into their body absent their informed consent.

As these women spoke, their eyes revealed the horror of what had been done to them. Many clutched or rubbed their midsection, still in physical pain as they recounted what they had been through and the mental and physical pain they still endure after being traumatized by Dr. Amin.

The Irwin County Detention Center is managed by a for-profit corporation. That industry's stock went through the roof when Trump was elected. He has delivered on their investment, and it has been open season on detainees ever since.

These companies rake in billions in taxpayer dollars to house, clothe, and feed detainees. Some of the women had been issued deportation orders 6, 8 months, even a year ago, but they are

still being detained, and taxpayers foot the bill so that corporations can maximize huge profits. They profit by paying slave wages to detainees to cook and clean the facility. They profit off of phone calls in the commissary.

Somebody is also profiting off of churning these women's bodies for unnecessary medical procedures, paid for by the taxpayers.

This is not right. It is immoral to profit off of human suffering and misery.

This horror show must end. We need to shut it down and shut it down now.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA), my distinguished co-lead on this resolution, a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) for yielding me the time.

This weekend, several of my colleagues and I visited the Irwin County ICE Detention Center, and what we saw and heard was outrageous and heart-breaking.

We heard stories directly from women who were subjected to unnecessary and unwanted medical procedures without their consent. And yet yesterday, some of our friends across the aisle suggested that some of this may be made up, that this is not real.

Well, here I have some statements I received directly from the detainees this past weekend, and I am going to read from these, written in their own hands, for the RECORD. They are in Spanish, but they will be translated into English.

This letter was signed by 24 detainees. The women said:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

They do not understand what is happening to their body, nor what they did to their body.

"No entienden que está pasando con su cuerpo, ni que hicieron con su cuerpo".

Mr. Speaker, imagine if you were put under in surgery and were not told what was being done to your body, and you went through the surgery. This is what is happening to some of these women.

They went on to say:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

"They 'told' them they were going to perform a study and they deceived them. Because a surgery room should not be a school."

"Le vamos a hacer un estudio les 'dijeron' y las habéis engañado. Porque una sala de cirugías no debe ser una escuela".

Now, that is alarming if it is true. They were performing a study, and they deceived them. Because the surgery room should not be a school.

Mr. Speaker, imagine if you were told they were doing a study on your body and not being told what for or what any side effects may be. Nothing, nada, is what these women were told.

They also said:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

"Why are we being punished? You send us to a 'crazy' person that mutilates bodies. And they deport us so that we don't say anything."

"¿Por qué nos castigan más? Nos mandan con un 'loco', despiadado que mutila cuerpos. Y nos deportan para que nadie diga nada. . .", imagine if you were told they were doing a study on your body and not being told what for or what any side effects may be. Nothing, nada, is what these women were told.

Well, Mr. Speaker, again, imagine having your body mutilated and then being deported to have you silenced. This is what is happening to some of these women.

When I asked three of the detainees I spoke to if they ever got an explanation of any of this in their own language, if they had the procedure and their options explained to them, and if they understood the chilling effect of these surgeries, all three of them laughed almost in unison at me, and they responded:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

"Of course not."

"Claro que no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds the gentlewoman that she will need to provide the Clerk a translation for the RECORD.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many women have been violated in the most horrific way imaginable. One relayed having a doctor, without explanation, putting his hands in her vagina without gloves. That is an assault in my book, and we need to recognize it as such.

Many remain confused about what was done to their bodies. Some had life-altering surgeries performed on them without consenting or truly understanding the long-term repercussions on their reproductive health.

These actions recall a time in our history when Black and Brown women were subjected to forced sterilizations and medical experiments.

This cannot be allowed to happen in America today. We can never let it happen ever again.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, in my mind, is just a first step in getting justice for these women.

We need to shut down the Irwin ICE Detention Center pending all investigations. The detainees should be released to their families or sponsors so they can get a complete medical review.

We must get to the bottom of this and make sure that it is stopped. And the FBI must investigate LaSalle Corrections and its contractors, especially the medical staff and the doctor, for any conflict of interest, any self-dealing, and any possible fraudulent billing.

Mr. Speaker, this is the most horrific example of human rights violations I have ever seen, and sadly, it is happening here in our very own country, and it must be stopped.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT), my good colleague, who was also on the codel with us.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman NADLER, I thank Ms. JAYAPAL for advancing this important resolution.

Last week I visited the Irwin Detention Center in Georgia along with a dozen of my colleagues.

I have visited some of these ICE detention centers before, and I have seen the horrible conditions that immigrants and refugees face across the country. We all remember the unspeakable stories about how children were separated from their mothers and fathers and how they cried for them in the middle of the night and how they were separated thousands of miles apart.

Mr. Speaker, I came to the United States from the Dominican Republic as a young boy knowing this Nation was a beacon of hope and opportunity.

Never in my wildest dream did I ever think that I would be a Member of Congress. But I also never had the nightmare that I would be summoned, that I would be asked to investigate this horror story that has manifested itself at Irwin.

While there, I spoke to a handful of women whose stories made me so angry about this country, the country that I had grown to love, angry about how our laws have been twisted by a sick administration that treats innocent women so cruelly, women who want nothing more than the same freedom and opportunities that I once sought myself, women who put their lives on the line to get here.

□ 0945

I spoke to a woman from the DR who crossed el Canal de la Mona with 30 men and 3 other women, 7 days in the Caribbean Sea only to have, later on, her health and well-being put in great risk by the U.S. Government itself.

One of them told me that she was treated like an animal, that the appropriate instruments that needed to be used for her tests were not used, that there were invasive and aggressive tests. She told me that the doctor stuck his hand on her private parts, Mr. Speaker.

I am told one woman has been bleeding for more than 2 weeks.

Let's shut down this center. Let's arrest the doctors and anybody that was involved in perpetrating this crime.

Let's shut down Irwin right now, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Congress-

woman JAYAPAL's resolution to condemn unwanted and unnecessary medical procedures without the full, informed consent of individuals.

From the 1930s to the 1970s, Puerto Rican women were sterilized in order to control population growth. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, anti-immigrant sentiment resulted in the highest number of recorded state-sanctioned sterilizations of Mexican women in California.

Now, in 2020, we learn of allegations that immigrant women in ICE custody are being subjected to forced hysterectomies.

The stories we have heard from Georgia's Irwin County Detention Center are horrendous but, sadly, not new. They are a reminder of our country's dark history of forcing women of color to be sterilized.

Robbing Black and Brown women of full autonomy over their bodies and reproductive freedoms is white supremacy in action. In any other country, we would denounce these horrific incidents as violations of human rights.

I stand with my colleagues in strong support of the resolution to condemn these atrocities and hold those involved accountable.

I am disgusted but not surprised. This administration has dehumanized immigrants time and time again. Those seeking asylum have been stripped of their dignity, and some are now scarred for life. This is a violation of human rights, a violation of human dignity, and an atrocious violation of privacy and safety.

What happened in Georgia is criminal and must be condemned so that it may never happen again. I strongly urge adoption of this resolution.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ), who is a doctor himself and provided very, very important feedback on the codel as he came with us.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Judiciary Committee and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for organizing the trip to Irwin County Detention Center. I was one of those who went to witness firsthand what was going on.

I want to thank Representative JAYAPAL for this resolution and her leadership in this matter.

As a medical and public health expert, I have found three gross categories of violations in Irwin County Detention Center.

One is there were not sufficient precautions to prevent COVID-19 from causing an outbreak in the facilities. There was only one mask issued upon arrival, and the second mask was not issued until the day before we arrived, knowing we were going to arrive. Some women were there for 6, 7 months.

The second is that there was a COVID-19 positive patient in the facil-

ity, yet at the medical quarters, nobody was wearing an N95 mask, which could put the staff and other people in jeopardy. The COVID-19 patient was reported to be in isolation during the time that we were there.

Furthermore, the second problem in public health is the lack of hygiene maintenance in the facility. There were reports that the curtains were infested with mold. There was mold in the showers. Clothing hadn't been washed. They were issued sweatpants and sweatshirts; they were visibly dirty and torn.

When I inspected the showers myself, I saw that, in fact, there was mold in the showers. The curtains were replaced the day before or 2 days before we had arrived. So that is a problem in the face of human dignity and also in requiring personal hygiene to stay safe from COVID-19.

Furthermore, going back to the first category, I forgot to mention that the bunk beds were very small, and they were only 3 feet apart in their sleeping quarters, so that was also not following CDC recommendations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from California an additional 1 minute.

Mr. RUIZ. In terms of the third violation, which is the most outstanding and outrageous violation, it was that procedures were done without the women's informed consent. There were gynecological procedures, as was mentioned: total hysterectomy; partial hysterectomy; most of them were oophorectomies; most of them were cystectomies.

But the point here is that whenever you have any gynecological procedure, that can result in scarring, future pain, possible chronic pain, and also infertility. Therefore, you need informed consent.

It is medical practice to have informed consent, which requires an explanation of your disease, of the illness, of the procedure, including risks and any alternative options, including the option of doing nothing, in the language that the patient understands.

Not doing so, not documenting it, is a violation of that informed consent. Violating informed consent and putting a blade to a woman's body, without her understanding or her informed consent, is an assault.

That is why we need fully to condemn this practice. That is why we need to fully investigate through the inspector general, through the FBI, through the Georgia medical and surgeon license board to ensure that this doesn't happen, that it is not happening in other private detention facilities throughout the country, in rural areas where perhaps they think they might get away with it because, after all, these are very disempowered women without very strong advocacy in those locations.

I am very thankful for the lawyers, for those that brought this to light,



that have empowered the voices, including a 22-year-old woman who now will never be able to have children.

I support this resolution to send a very strong message to all facilities and all doctors that every woman requires fully informed consent before any procedure.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my distinguished and wonderful colleague who has been on the front lines of this issue since it started and has already provided so much to the women who have been detained at Irwin.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we awoke this morning to daunting news in this Nation, and I know that the Nation prays.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Washington for her distinguished service, and our fellow coleaders and cosponsors, Congresswomen KUSTER, GARCIA, and FRANKEL, and, really, all of those who rose in the immediacy of our visit to be able to sign on to H. Res. 1153.

In the spirit of our late friend and colleague, America is better than this. America is better than this.

First, to my Republican friends, I hope that they will rise today and vote for this legislation. If they read it, they will understand there is no condemnation of ICE. There is accountability that each and every one of us who serves the people of the United States is obligated to do. We are obligated to be accountable. We are obligated to treat every human being with decency.

Though this is a circumstance that pained my heart, am I reminded of the man that killed nine at Mother Emanuel Church and was taken to get a burger before he was taken to jail because he said he was hungry.

No one seems to condemn that. It certainly hurt my heart. Nine people of faith praying were killed, murdered in their church, and left lying in blood. But he was taken to get a burger.

Why should these women be treated any less?

This resolution, why is it so intimidating? All we say is, condemning the performance of “unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures on individuals without their full, informed consent,” recognizing that “everyone deserves to control their own reproductive choices and make informed choices about their bodies.” We have been saying that all along.

My friends on the other side of the aisle, I hope they join in that. They want a singular path. We say people with their God, women with their God, their family, and their medical professional.

Acknowledges that “further accountability, oversight, and transparency is necessary to protect people in the custody” of DHS and ICE, to make sure

these women are not deported as we are in the midst of an inspector general’s report.

Thankful to the Judiciary Committee, the chairman, and the colleagues who led this letter of over 180-plus Members. That IG’s investigation is proceeding, but they need to have those witnesses, and this resolution is crucial because it lays out intimate facts that we heard personally from women.

I don’t know whenever—I know that I was here for debates on partial-birth abortion. That is obviously not what it was. It was a medical procedure to save the mother’s life. But when have we ever discussed the private examinations of women, how private we are in order to get America to understand how this was?

Women should rise up, not respecting their party. They should rise up when they know that procedures were done without consent—physically touched, could not speak English. All women seemed to get the same diagnosis: remove the Fallopian tube.

Pauline—I will not call her last name—I sat with her for an hour and a half, and she described what happened: sedated, did not know, told after she came out of the sedation, broke down in tears. I pay tribute to her. And almost about to be on the verge of deportation, a witness.

The whistleblower, a mother of five children, single mother of five children, she needed her job. Demoted because she had the courage to talk about examinations, surgeries.

Only women would understand examinations without lubricant, young women in the prime of fertility, crying.

Beds—this is a private center contracted by the government. Beds that looked like they had been there since the 1800s. These were metal beds. I have never seen a bunk bed this thin. This is a place waiting for COVID-19 because they are so close. The beds themselves are 2 feet to 4 feet away.

You know what their COVID-19 practice is for protection? It is to have one head this way and one head that way.

There are no masks. The air is going. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Texas an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. You have no way to protect these women in this crowded scenario.

There is a men’s site. By the way, this is a for-profit center, so they take U.S. Marshals individuals. They take county individuals. It is just a pot-pourri of persons.

They have women who have been there for 3-plus years.

I don’t blame the workers or even the agencies, the subagency. It is the policies of this administration dealing with immigrants who are human beings and have due process rights accordingly, as being in the United States.

I leave you with this: Please pass H. Res. 1153 because this is drawn by this

woman who says liberty because we are daughters, we are mothers, we are human beings. The Nation is better than this.

Vote for H. Res. 1153 to stop these procedures and stop these prisons from taking advantage of us.

Mr. Speaker, as a leader of this resolution and a senior member of the House Judiciary and Homeland Committees, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1153, “Condemning Unwanted, Unnecessary Medical Procedures on Individuals Without Their Full, Informed Consent”.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my fellow co-leads of this resolution, Representatives JAYAPAL, KUSTER, GARCIA, and FRANKEL as well as all 224 members who have supported this resolution.

H. Res. 1153 addresses the recent allegations of improper medical care of detained women in the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Georgia by: condemning the performance of unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures on individuals without their full, informed consent; recognizing that everyone deserves to control their own reproductive choices and make informed choices about their bodies; and acknowledges that further accountability, oversight, and transparency is necessary to protect people in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs.

The resolution also calls on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to pause the removal of any individual who has received any medical procedure at the Irwin County Detention Center as well as allow individuals who may have experienced an unnecessary or nonconsensual procedure to have immediate access to adequate, safe, and consensual medical treatment.

By passing this resolution today, DHS must also comply with all investigations and records request related to investigations about the Irwin County Detention Center, ensure affected individuals are able to freely participate in any investigations, and hold all individuals involved in perpetrating these instances of medical impropriety accountable.

On September 14, 2020, Project South filed an explosive complaint to the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General.

The complaint alleged unsafe, unsanitary conditions, as well as cited significant numbers of full and partial hysterectomies performed on detainees at the Irwin County Detention Center without the full and informed consent of the patients.

On September 16, 2020, I was alerted to the DHS’ decision to fast-track the deportation of a young woman, Pauline Binam, who was a victim of improper medical care at the Irwin County Detention Center.

Pauline is a strong, kind, and lovely young woman who has lived in the United States since she was two years old.

Since 2017, Pauline had been held in DHS custody and was scheduled to be deported to Cameroon.

That is three years of not being able to hold her child, embrace her family, or celebrate milestones and holidays with loved ones.

In August 2019, while being detained at the Irwin County Detention Center, Pauline underwent a procedure commonly known as a D&C, which she had been told that it was for the purpose of getting rid of the cysts on her ovaries.

□ 1000

According to the Mayo Clinic, a D&C procedure is used for the following medical reasons: Clearing out tissues that remain in the uterus after a miscarriage or abortion to prevent infection or heavy bleeding; Removing a tumor that forms instead of a normal pregnancy; Treating excessive bleeding after delivery by clearing out any placenta that remains in the uterus; or Removing cervical or uterine polyps, which are usually benign.

However, when Pauline woke up from the anesthesia, she was informed that the doctor had removed her fallopian tube during the surgery.

This medical procedure, which substantially impacts Pauline's potential to have more children, was performed without her consent and has forever altered Pauline's life.

And Pauline is not the only victim.

Numerous allegations of medical abuse at the Irwin County Detention Center have come to light over the past few days and weeks.

These shocking claims of medical malpractice reflect widespread medical neglect in the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention system.

It is imperative that we, as Members of Congress, fulfill our duty to the American people and get to the bottom of what happened to the women being held at the Irwin County Detention Center.

We cannot wait.

The women in this facility cannot wait.

We must seek out justice for these women immediately, and that starts by voting to pass this resolution.

Furthermore, Pauline and the other women who have shared their stories of these violating and nonconsensual medical procedures must have the ability to contribute to this investigation.

Had I not intervened and stopped Pauline's deportation when I did, we would have lost a key witness to the investigation; someone who is vital to shining a light on these cruel, and immoral medical procedures performed without full and informed consent.

We cannot be known as a country that violates our own laws.

Just because someone is an immigrant, is undocumented, or being detained for deportation, it does not mean that they can be denied their due process rights under the laws of this land and under the constitution of the United States of America.

Last weekend, I, along with several other Members of Congress, had the opportunity to visit the Irwin County Detention Center.

During that trip, I was able to speak with multiple detainees and hear about the living circumstances and quality of care surrounding their detention at the facility.

It is no secret that the United States has had a long history of women being denied reproductive rights and being violated medically, especially women of color.

When you perform procedures that disallow a woman from making her own choices or deny her from making a choice, you are violating her very humanity, and I will not stand idly by and allow it to continue.

As a woman and a mother, I am appalled and horrified by what has been happening to these women at the Irwin County Detention Center, and I believe that we owe it to them to investigate their claims fully.

I urge my colleagues to vote with their conscience and pass H. Res. 1153 today.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Washington has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, John Adams' famous observation bears repeating here today.

He said: "Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence."

We have heard a great deal from the other side about their passions, but we don't have all the facts. That is what the ongoing investigations will provide us.

The facts that stubbornly present themselves on this matter here today are that the AP found no evidence of mass hysterectomies at this facility. The hospital that performs them for the facility reports that two have been performed on ICE detainees since 2017. The hospital tells us the allegations are demonstrably false—demonstrably—in other words, they can prove it. The attorney who made the allegations that have given rise to this debate today admitted to The Washington Post that they were not based on any evidence and that she included them "whether or not true" to prompt the investigation.

All the wishes and inclinations on the other side to abolish ICE, repeal our immigration laws, throw our borders open, all the other things that have been proposed from time to time and all of the vitriolic passions we have heard from the other side today cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.

More facts and evidence will be presented to us as the investigation unfolds, and that will tell us exactly what happened at this facility. I would strongly advise my friends to await the investigation to inform us and to guide us.

My Democratic colleagues are fond of saying that we must always follow the data. Mr. Speaker, I now commend to them their own advice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by saying to my good colleague across the aisle that, when he says that first reports are always wrong, let me ask, is that like the first reports of family separation or kids in cages?

When my colleague says to let the investigation continue, that is exactly what this resolution does. It specifically defines the ability to keep these women who will be witnesses in this investigation in the United States. In fact, just last week we had to, once again, make sure that a woman was

not deported who had her left fallopian tube removed, and it was confirmed by independent gynecologists.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I really believe that we crafted this resolution in a way that it could truly be a bipartisan resolution and that protects the ability for this investigation to continue with all the facts on the table, and we are grateful that there is an investigation going.

But in order to have a proper investigation, we need to have these witnesses here. We need to make sure that the women who have had these procedures are actually able to get care. And we need to make sure that this House says very clearly, in any situation, that these unnecessary, unwanted medical procedures, if true, done without consent and knowledge, are wrong.

That is all this resolution does.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues on the other side will vote "yes" with us on this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1164, the previous question is ordered on the resolution and on the preamble, as amended.

The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

#### CONDEMNING QANON AND REJECTING THE CONSPIRACY THEORIES IT PROMOTES

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1164, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 1154) condemning QAnon and rejecting the conspiracy theories it promotes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1164, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1154

Whereas, throughout history, conspiracy theories that falsely blame secret cabals or marginalized groups for society's ills have fueled prejudice, genocide, and acts of terrorism;

Whereas QAnon is a movement promoting a collection of unfounded conspiracy theories that have spread widely on the internet since 2017;

Whereas QAnon initially alleged that prominent Americans are engaged in a secret plot to control the world, while using their power to exploit children, and has expanded to embrace virtually every popular conspiracy theory of the last several decades,