



For immediate release
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Westmoreland to vote to save Terri Schiavo

U.S. Rep. Lynn Westmoreland returned to Washington Sunday to cast his vote to save Terri Schiavo's life.

"We're serious about promoting a culture of life, and that's why I didn't hesitate to return to the Capitol to do whatever I could to save this woman from a slow murder," Westmoreland said. "Calling Congress back into session after adjourning for a recess is a serious and complicated effort, but this is a life and death situation that goes beyond the life of one person, Terri Schiavo, and the suffering of one family. We're setting a precedent and we're setting an example that we place great value in the preciousness of human life.

"On a moral level, we're seeking to save a life. But our efforts on behalf of Terri are practical on many levels, too. First, after 15 years, what does it hurt to wait a few more days to let a federal court study the matter, particularly when there's a life at stake? Second, she's not on life support; she's able to laugh and respond to the world around her. Third, her parents want to keep her alive. Only her husband is pushing to end her life and he has a common law wife with whom he has two kids. He has a new family, and her parents wishes should be respected in this case.

"I hope that enough members will return tonight to form a quorum. We can still save Terri, but time is of the essence. We must act quickly."

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