

my mother come from country X, Y, or Z, or otherwise, and let us join together.

I say once again, if we forget we are a nation of laws, then all of us—the people in this room and the people throughout the country—ought to be bound by the same rules and the same laws. We cannot make the kind of exception that looks as if it is responding to particular pressure in a particular moment.

RESOLUTION ON METHAMPHETAMINE CLEAN UP FUNDS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, today I rise in support of Senator GRASSLEY's Sense of the Senate Resolution urging President Clinton to see to it that the Department of Justice reprogramms \$10,000,000 in recovery funds within the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) so the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) can continue to reimburse state and local law enforcement officials in the proper removal and disposal of hazardous materials recovered from clandestine methamphetamine laboratories.

Mr. President, Wyoming is one of a number of states that has experienced an astronomic increase in methamphetamine production, trafficking and use. In fact, during fiscal year 1998, of all cases prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's office in Wyoming, 45% were drug cases and of that nearly 75% were methamphetamine related.

When law enforcement officials bust a methamphetamine laboratory not only do they have to prosecute the individuals involved but they must also dispose of the highly toxic chemicals that were used to produce this illegal drug. It is estimated that it costs between \$3,000 and \$100,000 for the safe clean up of methamphetamine labs. It is very important to see to it that methamphetamine labs are properly handled because six pounds of toxic waste are produced for every pound of methamphetamine manufactured.

Wyoming's law enforcement officials rely exclusively on the funds that the DEA provides to state and local law enforcement officials for the clean up of methamphetamine labs. Because of this growing problem, the allocated funds the DEA uses to reimburse state and local law enforcement officials ran out last month. As a result, numerous towns and communities across the country are no longer able to rely on the DEA for much needed funding.

Mr. President, it is my hope that President Clinton will see to it that the Justice Department approves this reprogramming of funds so law enforcement officials across the country can continue to fight the growing problem of methamphetamine production.

NATIONAL ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to the critical

issue of organ and tissue donation, particularly with the upcoming National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week (April 16th-22nd) upon us. Although many of us will be back in our home states next week, we must remember to spread the word about the need for donation whenever we have the chance.

National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week was first designated by Congress in 1983 and proclaimed by the President annually since then to raise awareness of the significant need for organ and tissue donation and to encourage all Americans to share their decision to donate with their families so their wishes can be honored. Last year, for example, the Transplant Recipients International Organization's Chicago chapter reached thousands of people through its donation displays at City Hall and other public buildings. In addition, many groups sponsored donor recognition ceremonies, remembrance services, and other events to honor the generous and caring individuals and families who have given the gift of life.

Today, nearly 70,000 men, women, and children are waiting for an organ transplant and the list is growing longer. Each day about 57 people are given the gift of life through the generosity of organ and tissue donations, but another 16 people on the waiting list die because the need for donations greatly exceeds the supply available. Additionally, the need for a more diverse donor pool, including a variety of racial and ethnic minorities, will also continue to grow in the coming years. All anyone needs to do is this: say yes to organ and tissue donation on a donor card or driver's license and discuss your decision with your family members so they know your wishes. Transplantation does save lives, but only if all of us help as we strive toward a fair, equitable and accountable system of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Last session, the Give Thanks, Give Life resolution that I sponsored with my distinguished colleagues, Senator FRIST, Senator DEWINE, Senator KENNEDY and Senator LEVIN and others was passed in the Senate. This legislation, which has the support of numerous national organ and tissue donation organizations, designates Thanksgiving of 2000 as a day for families to discuss organ and tissue donation with each other since the final decision to share the gift of life is almost always made by a loved one's family. This week, I also introduced the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Transplant Patients Act of 2000, which sets up a new policy stating that all Medicare beneficiaries who have received a transplant and need immunosuppressive drugs to prevent rejection of their transplant will be covered for as long as anti-rejection drugs are needed.

There are many stories that touch the heart on this compelling issue, but I'll share just one. Kelly Therese

Nachreiner was a bright, artistic teenager in the class of 2002. At 16, she went with her mother, Mary, to get her temporary driver's license. At that time, Mary pointed out the donation question on the form for her license to Kelly, having no idea how her daughter would respond to this serious issue. Kelly quickly responded, "Well, of course, Mom, I mean if somebody can live after me . . . if I'm dead why does it matter? Why do I want to keep those organs? If I can save somebody else's life, why wouldn't I?" Just one month later, her unselfish decision would save the lives of three people after she died as the result of an automobile accident. Kelly not only saved those three lives, she also brought a spotlight to the issue of organ and tissue donation awareness, which can potentially save thousands more.

Mr. President, all of us would want to save somebody else's life if we could. Let us continue to work together throughout National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week and beyond, to promote organ and tissue donation wherever we can.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL TRAGEDY

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, next Thursday, April 20th, marks an important date in the hearts of the families of those killed inside Columbine High School, and for those who survived the horrible events on that infamous day one year ago. Indeed, this day is important for everyone whose lives were touched by those tragic events.

I can think of no greater burden for a parent than to have to bury one of his or her children. That burden is only magnified when a loved one is taken with such unimaginable and unspeakable violence.

A year is not enough time to heal the scars created on that day; not for the families of those taken, not for the children who were spared, not for the community of Littleton, Colorado, and not for our nation.

While the events of that fateful day shall always be with us, so too is the memory of those slain and the strength of spirit they and their families have given to all of us. Like the Columbine flower which returns every Spring from under the darkness of winter, so too has a sense of community blossomed in Littleton and throughout the State of Colorado in response to the horror of that day.

As a step toward healing, many groups, individuals, and entities from both Colorado and our nation have worked to honor those who have died and to memorialize their passing in an appropriate and meaningful manner.

It seems especially fitting that today I recognize with honor the parents and the families of those killed and wounded in the school that day who are working to raise money to replace the library at Columbine High School, the scene of much of the violence that occurred last April 20.

They have, to date, received pledges for nearly all of the estimated \$3 million it will take to replace the library at Columbine High School. Other pending pledges could bring them close to the full amount they need to replace this scene of horror with one of hope. This is just one outstanding example of a community pulling together in a grassroots effort to lift itself up free of governmental intervention and regulation. I would encourage every American capable of sharing to help all of the families whose lives were abruptly and forever changed by the events at Columbine in whatever way they can.

Mr. President, there is good and evil present among us in human nature. We never know when we will be faced with either. I pray no family has ever to face the sadness and grief visited on the victims and the families of those in Columbine High School one year ago today. I also pray that peace comes to all of our families through the gentle spirit of all the victims taken from us in Columbine High School, and those who will live with the pain caused that day. That spirit lives on in all of us and has been best described by the students and community of Littleton who proudly proclaim: "We are Columbine."

CARHART V. STENBERG

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, on April 25, 2000 the United States Supreme Court will hear arguments in the Carhart v. Stenberg case. As a lifelong Nebraskan, I have received several requests to take a prominent public position with regard to this case, including a request that I file an amicus brief, also known as a "friend of the court" brief in this case. I am honored by these requests, but remain determined not to become officially involved in this case before the Supreme Court. I have come to believe that active involvement in matters before the courts, particularly the U.S. Supreme Court, would be an ineffective use of the power of the Senate office which I hold in trust for all Nebraskans.

However, I do not want my silence and absence from these amicus briefs to be mistaken for something that it is not. Because I have had several opportunities as a Nebraska Senator to debate this issue, and because this landmark case before the Supreme Court affects Nebraskans directly, I feel compelled to explain to Nebraskans my thoughts on this important issue.

On September 24, 1999, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a Nebraska district court decision that a Nebraska statute banning a medical procedure commonly known as "partial-birth abortion" is unconstitutional. The appellate court sustained the decision on the grounds that the Nebraska law creates an undue burden on women seeking abortions.

It is my sincere belief that the Eighth Circuit's decision should be sustained. In sum, the law adopted by the State of

Nebraska (LB 23, June 9, 1997) is too vague to be enforced without placing an undue burden on a woman making this difficult choice. The Supreme Court should uphold the Eighth Circuit's decision because this law bans procedures commonly used for second trimester abortions and will affect any Nebraska doctor who performs either the D&E (dilation and evacuation) or D&X (dilation and extraction) procedure. This statute makes the act of performing legal medical procedures a Class III felony (up to 20 years in jail) and subjects a participating physician to the loss of his or her license.

Each year, five thousand women in Nebraska, with the help and counsel of their loved ones, their doctors and their clergy, face the very difficult decision to end a pregnancy. None of us believe that they make their decision lightly. They are guided by their moral beliefs and by the previous decisions of the Supreme Court giving elected State and Federal officials a legal foundation upon which to effectuate, and in some cases limit, the scope of their choices.

The central problem with the Nebraska law is that legislators made no attempt to abide by previous Court decisions. Called the "Partial Birth Abortion Ban" by its sponsors, the bill has been inaccurately characterized as "banning certain late term abortions." In reality, the bill does not concern itself with late term abortions—neither curbing them nor banning them—which the Court gives lawmakers the capacity to do. Instead the bill seeks to ban a medical procedure used to end a pregnancy without reference to when that procedure is used. Moreover, it bans a medical intervention that is very difficult to define with the precision needed under law to give both doctors and those who enforce the law the guidance they need.

Given this uncertainty, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals found that LB 23 was unconstitutional. Writing for the majority, former Chief Judge Richard Arnold explained that it created an undue burden on women because, in many instances, it would ban the most common and safest procedure for second-trimester abortions. The Court pointed out that the term "partial birth abortion" has "no fixed medical or legal content" and that the Nebraska statute is too broad.

Most second and third-term abortions occur in situations where a woman would have preferred, indeed desperately wanted, to carry the baby full term. The doctor made a recommendation based upon a threat to the life and health of the mother if the pregnancy were to continue. A law like Nebraska's would make doctors who perform this procedure liable for prosecution, with penalties that include loss of their license to practice medicine and time in jail. The threat of these penalties could result in physicians choosing not to treat women with a history of high-risk pregnancies.

We are wrong to presume that women no longer die during child birth or abortion. Medical science has reduced but not eliminated the risk associated with either. We must not deny women their ability to freely choose to undergo an abortion, or the access to physician care necessary to ensure their safety.

Freedom of choice in reproductive decision-making is a constitutional guarantee established by this Court with limitations. Nebraska's law fundamentally ignores the limitations allowed and not allowed by the Court's previous decisions. If it is sustained, it will imperil the safety and well-being of women throughout our state. We cannot allow misinformation to obscure the broad consensus in America that women must decide for themselves how best to live their lives. Moreover, it is equally important that no one be denied the safe and appropriate medical treatment necessary to make a reproductive decision which this law would do.

It is my hope that this statement will help Nebraskans better understand my position on this very important matter.

PIPELINE SAFETY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to share with my colleagues some recent developments on the pipeline safety legislation I introduced two months ago. I'm pleased to report that in the past week, we've made a lot of progress.

About 10 months have passed since a gasoline pipeline in Bellingham, Washington ruptured—spilling more than 275,000 gallons of gasoline. That pipeline disaster killed three young people, and left thousands of people in my state wondering about the safety of the pipelines near their homes.

We can't undo what happened in Bellingham—it will never be the same. But we can make sure that what happened in Bellingham doesn't happen anywhere else.

There are 2.2 million miles of pipelines running across the country—bringing us the energy we need to fuel our cars and heat our homes. They run near our schools, houses and communities. We have a responsibility to make sure these pipelines are safe. And it is clear that the current laws are not sufficient.

That's why I introduced my pipeline safety bill back in January. Since that time, I have been meeting with the Administration, with Senators, safety officials, citizen groups, and industry representatives.

This week, I spoke at a national conference on pipeline safety here in Washington, D.C. It was hosted by the National Pipeline Reform Coalition, SAFE Bellingham, and the Cascade Columbia Alliance.

I can tell you that people all across the country are following this issue closely, they understand the problem, and they are calling for action.