

Despite this rhetoric of the Republicans, Americans understand it will take more than a bumper-sticker slogan to stop the pain at the pump. We have to reduce the Nation's reliance on foreign oil. But we cannot drill our way to energy independence. We are doing better. We have done so well during the Obama years. Every year he has been President, production has gone up and the use of oil has gone down.

We must continue looking for responsible new domestic oil sources. But we must also invest in the clean energy technologies of tomorrow to create good jobs for today.

Repealing almost \$24 billion in wasteful subsidies to oil companies would pay for these clean energy investments—with money left over to do something about the deficit.

America has less than 2 percent of the oil reserves in the world but consumes more than 20 percent of the world's oil supply each year. So drilling on American soil alone will not solve our reliance on foreign oil.

Last year America used a lower percentage of foreign oil than at any time in almost two decades, thanks to President Obama's policies. Domestic oil production, I repeat, has increased every year during the Obama administration. Meanwhile, American dependence on foreign oil has decreased each year. Yet prices at the pump have continued to rise.

Here is why. For every penny the price at the pump goes up, the major oil companies—there are five of them—make an additional \$200 million in profits each quarter. So let's say that again. For every penny you pay extra at the gas pump, these five oil companies make \$200 million.

Well, it does not take a lot of math to understand that gas prices have risen 62 cents this year, so take \$200 million times 62 and you have a huge amount of billions of dollars. Every time a penny is added to your purchase of a gallon of gas, oil companies make \$200 million. So—62 cents—they have made billions this year.

Last year they raked in \$137 billion in profits, and they are on pace for another record-breaking year of astronomical profits. So it is beyond ridiculous when Republicans argue oil companies need billions in taxpayer subsidies each year.

Middle-class families are struggling. Oil companies that last year raked in \$261,000 a minute, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, are not struggling.

Mr. President, listen to this again. Oil companies last year raked in \$261,000 a minute, 24 hours a day, no weekends off, no holidays. They did it 365 days of the year. They are not struggling at all and that, of course, is a gross understatement. That is why this matter is now before the Senate.

IRAN SANCTIONS

Mr. REID. On another topic that is extremely important, Mr. President, I

have talked about how obvious it is America needs to reduce its reliance on foreign oil. But if anyone needs another reason, just look at the regimes that benefit from the global addiction to oil.

For example, Iran. Iran uses profits from global oil sales to support its terrorism around the world, its nuclear weapons program. So it is critical the Senate act now—and act quickly—to further tighten sanctions against Iran. These sanctions are a key tool as we work to stop them from obtaining nuclear weapons, threatening Israel, and ultimately jeopardizing U.S. national security.

This country is so fortunate to have the person who is leading the Central Intelligence Agency: GEN David Petraeus. I had the good fortune yesterday to spend an hour with him. He is a good man. He understands what is going on in the world.

We must be vigilant, as we are, about what is going on in Iran. I repeat, we must act now—and act quickly—to further tighten sanctions against Iran. These sanctions are a key tool as we work to stop them from obtaining nuclear weapons, threatening Israel and further terrorizing other parts of the world.

The only way to get sanctions in place now is to take up a bipartisan bill that passed unanimously out of the Senate Banking Committee. I would like and I am going to move to this. My staff has alerted the Republican leader I am going to ask consent soon to move forward on this unanimously reported bill out of the Banking Committee.

Unfortunately, I have been told my Republican colleagues will object to moving forward with these new sanctions because they want to offer additional amendments. I have Democrats who want to offer additional amendments also, but we do not have the time to slow down passage of this legislation.

Let's move to the next step. When we put this away, we are not going to be finished with Iran. There are a number of Democrats, I repeat, who also wish to offer amendments to this bill, but in an effort to get sanctions in place now, Democrats have agreed to streamline the process and refrain from offering their amendments.

We cannot afford to slow down the process. Passing this bill now will help prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. And that is a goal on which we should all agree.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Mr. President, would the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RACIAL PROFILING

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the tragic death of Trayvon Martin and the larger issue of racial profiling. On Monday I spoke about this issue at the Center for Urban Families in Baltimore. Joining me were representatives from various faith and civil rights groups in Baltimore, as well as graduates from the center's program.

This weekend we saw numerous rallies take place across the United States, including rallies called Million Hoodie Marches where individuals wore hoodies in solidarity with Trayvon Martin.

I was touched by what President Obama said on Friday about this case. He said:

If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon. And I think every parent in America should be able to understand why it is absolutely imperative that we investigate every aspect of this. I think all of us have to do some soul searching to figure out how something like this happened.

That is why I am so pleased that the Justice Department, under the supervision of Attorney General Eric Holder, has announced an investigation into the avoidable shooting death of Trayvon Martin on February 26, 2012. As we all know from the news, an unarmed Martin, 17, was shot in Sanford, FL, on his way home from a convenience store by a neighborhood watch volunteer.

I am pleased that the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department will join the Federal Bureau of Investigation in investigating the tragic, avoidable shooting death of Trayvon Martin. In particular, I also support the Justice Department's decision to send the Community Relations Service to Sanford to help defuse tensions while the investigation is being conducted.

I join all Americans in wanting a full and complete investigation into the shooting death of Trayvon Martin to ensure that justice is served. There are many questions we need the Justice Department to answer. One is whether Trayvon was the victim of a hate crime by Zimmerman. One is whether

Trayvon was a victim of racial profiling by the police. In other words, was Trayvon targeted by Mr. Zimmerman because he was Black? Was Trayvon treated differently by local law enforcement in their shooting investigation because he was Black and the aggressor was White? Would the police have acted differently with a White victim and a Black aggressor?

The Department of Justice has the authority to investigate the potential hate crime as well as whether this is a pattern or practice of misconduct by local law enforcement in terms of applying the law equally to all citizens and not discriminating on the basis of race. Tom Perez is the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. I want to make sure we have both Federal and State investigations that ultimately prosecute offenders to the fullest extent of the law as well as make any needed policy changes, particularly to local police practices and procedures.

Trayvon's tragic death also leads to a discussion of the broader issue of racial profiling. I have called for putting an end to racial profiling, a practice that singles out individuals based on race or other protected categories. In October of last year, I introduced legislation—the End Racial Profiling Act, S. 1670—that would protect minority communities by prohibiting the use of racial profiling by law enforcement officials.

The bill would prohibit State and local law enforcement officials from using race as a factor in criminal investigations, including in “deciding upon the scope and substance of law enforcement activity following the initial investigatory procedure.”

The bill would mandate training and provide grants on racial-profiling issues and data collection by local and State law enforcement.

Finally, the bill would condition the receipt of Federal funds by State and local law enforcement on two grounds. First, under this bill, State and local law enforcement would have to “maintain adequate policies and procedures designed to eliminate racial profiling.” Second, they must “eliminate any existing practices that permit or encourage racial profiling.”

The legislation I introduced is supported by the NAACP, the ACLU, the Rights Working Group, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and numerous other organizations. I look forward to the April 18 advocacy day these civil rights groups are planning on Capitol Hill to lobby on racial-profiling issues and raise awareness about this issue and the legislation I have introduced.

Racial profiling is bad policy. Given the state of our budgets, it also diverts scarce resources from real law enforcement. Law enforcement officials nationwide already have tight budgets. The more resources spent on investigating individuals solely because of their race or religion, the fewer re-

sources we have to actually deal with illegal behavior.

Racial profiling has no place in modern law enforcement. The vast majority of our law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line every day handle their job with professionalism, diligence, and fidelity to the rule of law. However, Congress and the Justice Department can and should still take steps to prohibit racial profiling and finally root out its use.

The 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees equal protection of the law to all Americans. Racial profiling is important to that principle and should be ended once and for all. As the late Senator Kennedy often said, “Civil rights is the great unfinished business of America.” Let's continue to fight here to make sure we truly have equal justice under law and equal protection of law as guaranteed by our Constitution.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, today I rise to speak about the subject our Nation is focused on as the Supreme Court takes up some of the constitutional provisions of the health care law that was passed a couple of years ago in this body.

Obviously, the courts will decide whether the law that was passed is constitutional. There are a number of challenges. That will take place by the end of June, according to what we hear.

Secondly, there is an election process underway where the candidates running for the Republican nomination have talked about the things they will do in the event they are elected as it relates to the health care bill.

I want to talk about the fact that regardless of the Supreme Court and regardless of what may happen in the electoral process, I have yet to meet a person on either side of the aisle—and maybe today will be the first time—who believes this bill can work as it was passed. What that leads me to say is that regardless of what happens, I think most of us are aware that the financial data that was used to put together this bill is flawed, and the fact that it is flawed, it will not work over the longer haul.

For the same reasons I railed against the highway bill for breaking the Budget Control Act we just put in place last August, I voted against this bill—the fact that we used 10 years' worth of revenues and 6 years' worth of costs, which greatly exacerbates the problem in the outyears; the fact that we took \$529 billion in savings from Medicare to create this problem and yet left behind the issue we deal with in this body almost every year and a half, which is the sustainable growth rate that we deal with with physicians; and then, thirdly, the fact that we placed an unfunded mandate on States.

The State of Tennessee has actually been highly progressive as it relates to health care. In the State of Tennessee, dealing with citizens who are in need, we created a program called TennCare. It went through lots of problems but over the last several years has been functioning in a stable way. But what this bill did was mandate to the State of Tennessee that in order to keep the Medicaid funding that funds TennCare, the State has to, on its own accord, match Federal grants with over \$1.1 billion in costs. So from 2014 to 2019, what this bill does is mandate that the State of Tennessee use \$1.1 billion of its own resources to expand the Medicaid Program to meet the needs this bill has put in place.

This is the point of my being on the floor here today. Again, I do not know of anybody here who believes this bill will cost only what was laid out as we debated. As a matter of fact, we have had so many people—the McKenzie Group and others—who have laid out how many private companies in our country will basically get rid of their health care and put people out on the public exchange. And the cost of that is going to be tremendous.

Our own former Governor, a Democrat, who has spent a lot of his lifetime in health care on health care issues, projected that the State of Tennessee, if it decided that it wanted to put its own employees out on the public exchange, could save \$160 million—by putting its employees away from its own health care plan and out on the exchanges. Obviously, I doubt that is something States are going to do. But his point is this: In a free market system, people are going to respond based on what is best for their company and what is best for their employees.

If you look at the subsidy levels that this bill lays out—up to 400 percent of poverty—they are massive subsidies. We are talking about people who are earning over \$78,000 a year. So when you look at the subsidies this bill has put in place, what employers are going to quickly find, especially because we put a subsidy in place on the one hand and on the other hand, because this bill lays out the type of coverage companies have to have in place—there are attributes that cause those costs to rise, and we have already seen that happening throughout our private sector; I think that is undeniable—what is going to happen is the companies are going to say: We would be better off paying the \$2,000 penalty. Our employees get these massive subsidies, by the way, that are paid for by all taxpayers in America.

What that means is that there are going to be far more people on these public exchanges than ever were anticipated when this bill was being put in place.

My point is that the bill, when it was being constructed, used 10 years' worth of revenues and 6 years' worth of cost, and that made it neutral. Anybody can see that in the outyears that is obviously going to create a tremendous