

Senator is requesting us to do is to take up the House-passed budget. Remember, we have passed a Senate budget here. We had 50 hours of debate, over 100 amendments were offered. We voted on all of them way into the wee hours, 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning, as everyone here will rightly remember. He is asking us to disregard all that action in the Senate, take up the House bill and have 50 hours more of debate, unlimited amendments, sitting here for weeks at a time again to go through all the amendments.

Madam President, that is a waste of taxpayer money and it is a waste of our time. We have done that work. It is time to go to conference.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, it is my understanding that a colloquy is in order between Senator BLUMENTHAL and Senator LEE, but I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of that I be recognized and that following my remarks the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Reserving the right to object, I believe I was listed in the queue a bit earlier than that, but I only have a 3- or 4-minute statement. I do not mind trading off, but I, similar to others, was told the time was right after the vote that I would be recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to amend my unanimous consent request to include the 3-minute remarks of the Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator. But reserving the right to object, is that before or after the remarks of the Senator from Oklahoma?

Mr. INHOFE. That would be before the Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS— S. RES. 133 and 134

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 133; that the Senate proceed to its consideration; that the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I wish to point out that the incident that led to this resolution—the Kermit Gosnell prosecution—indeed resulted in a successful prosecution. He was con-

victed of three counts of first-degree murder and one count of involuntary manslaughter. That case is closed. The criminal justice system has done its part, and the three life sentences without the possibility of parole means that the interests there—the very important public interests—will be served and he will never again harm women, infants or anyone else through his version of medical practice, that distorted and unfortunate betrayal of trust that he called a medical practice.

We need very much to focus on the kind of abuse of trust—unsanitary, abusive, unsafe medical practices—across this country, no matter what kind of procedure is involved, and that is the reason I think this resolution is too narrow in its focus on violations of the standard of medical care when they occur in medical practice, which most certainly was involved in the Gosnell case and involved, unfortunately, in thousands of cases across the country every year.

As Senators, we have a responsibility to focus on that betrayal of trust and care when it occurs. That is the reason I have offered a resolution—S. Res. 134—to express the sense of the Senate that all incidents of abusive, unsanitary, illegal, unhealthful medical practices should be condemned and prevented, and the perpetrators should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, as Gosnell was.

There are, unfortunately, many instances already publicly disclosed of these abuses of standards, and one of them, for example, I cited on the floor just very recently—last week. I remind my colleagues of the Oklahoma dentist who exposed as many as 7,000 patients to the HIV and hepatitis B and C viruses through unsanitary practices. So far, 60 of his patients have tested positive for these viruses. Those are 60 people who trusted a health care provider in a position of authority to provide safe, quality care. Those patients now face life-threatening diseases. In Nevada, practitioners at an endoscopy center exposed 40,000 patients to hepatitis C through their unsanitary practices, which went on for years. My resolution speaks to these kinds of abuses—unsafe, unsanitary practices—no matter what the medical procedure involved may be. So I urge my colleagues to support my resolution, and I do object to the proposed resolution of the Senator from Utah.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 134, and the Senate proceed to its consideration; that the resolution be agreed to, the Blumenthal amendment to the preamble, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the request of the Senator from Utah.

Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Connecticut?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Reserving the right to object, the kind of abuse, the kind of betrayal of trust described in the resolution proposed by my friend and my colleague from Connecticut is different in kind from that described in my resolution. The kind of abuse involved in my resolution involves the intentional taking, the first-degree premeditated murder of a human life. I think that deserves its own consideration, and on that basis I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. If I may respond to my friend's remarks—and I certainly not only sympathize with his motivation but also with the result—I just think it is too narrow a result—to investigate one form of medical practice, no matter how egregious the violation of standard of care may be. In this instance, it involved murder. We can say it now, no longer with the word “alleged” before murder, as we did last week. It is now proven. It is heinous and unacceptable. But so are the practices that involve exposing patients to very severe illnesses; and, likewise, the nursing home director in California who inappropriately administered an antipsychotic medicine to residents simply for convenience and which resulted in the death of one patient. Those kinds of practices may be equally egregious in the results and impact they cause, and my resolution would be broader and more inclusive and fairer not only to those victims' families—and I want to express my sympathy to the families of those victims who were so deeply and irreparably harmed by Gosnell—but also with the families and victims of other kinds of medical malpractice and to respect the States that have an independent responsibility to ensure adherence with those standards of care and ought to have the ability to enforce their laws, which might be impeded by the resolution that has been offered by my friend from Utah.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I rise to ask my colleagues once again to join me in expressing the sense of the Senate that governments at all levels have a compelling interest in preventing and punishing the practices of late-term abortions under unsafe, unsanitary, and illegal circumstances.

It seems as though every day we find new evidence that this problem is much bigger than we could have feared previously. Earlier this week, of course, Philadelphia abortion doctor Kermit Gosnell was convicted on three counts of first-degree murder for severing the spines of newborn infants, and one count of involuntary manslaughter for the death of a pregnant mother who came to see Dr. Gosnell for care.

The shocking details of the Gosnell case have, despite the best efforts of

the mainstream media to cover it up, become national news. The abortion industry has spun into action, trying to isolate and condemn Gosnell as an aberration. Planned Parenthood cited Gosnell's "appalling crimes." NARAL called him a "butcher." On this very floor last week, Gosnell's actions were decried by pro-choice Senators as "reprehensible" and "an outrage . . . a violation of everything we hold dear."

But Kermit Gosnell has only been sentenced to life in prison and condemned as a monster for doing things for which—had he done them just a few seconds earlier or a few centimeters in a different direction—those same voices might have hailed him as a hero and not as a monster.

Remember, President Obama himself, while serving in the State legislature of Illinois, voted against legislation that would have protected the civil and constitutional rights of infants—human beings—born alive.

At a recent hearing in the Florida State Legislature, a Planned Parenthood representative refused even to acknowledge that newborn babies have the right to life. In recent weeks, undercover videos have caught abortion clinics around the country casually offering to kill infants born alive. Just this week, evidence emerged about similar abuses at a clinic in Texas.

This has nothing to do with health care or even with medical negligence but with murder—a war on women and children waged under the guise of legitimate health care.

As much as we might want to agree that Kermit Gosnell is an aberration, recent revelations, indeed, suggest otherwise. A mounting body of evidence seems to suggest that at least among some late-term abortion providers and advocates, the immorality of infanticide may be an open question.

The abortion industry's defense of late-term abortion has always been based on a rejection of innate human dignity. How could it be otherwise? But as technology advances, their case for late-term abortion increasingly rejects medical science as well.

We now know as a scientific fact that unborn children, after about 20 weeks of development, can feel pain. We know Dr. Gosnell's victims squirmed and cried before he severed their spinal cords, and we know that every day medical technology progresses our abortion laws fall further behind the science.

It is a tragedy all on its own that even today our laws defining human life depend more on geography than biology. The unsettling question before us now is: Has an industry whose profits have always depended on dehumanizing unborn children gone even further and dehumanized children born alive too?

The case of Kermit Gosnell, the undercover videos, and recent clinic scandals around the country all hint at a terrifying answer. Yet right now we just don't know. My resolution would

call on governments at all levels to find out—to find out what the late-term abortion industry is up to and to take any appropriate and necessary measures to prevent and punish abusive, unsanitary, and illegal practices.

Some might say this resolution is a symbolic gesture, and I and others have introduced more concrete legislation. Perhaps. But even so, symbols are themselves important. It is important that the strong stand for the weak; that we, in the world's greatest deliberative body, lend our voices to the voiceless; that we, representatives of the most powerful Nation on Earth, promise to protect the weakest, most innocent, and most vulnerable among us and punish those who would do our children harm.

Mr. CRUZ. Would the Senator from Utah yield for a question?

Mr. LEE. Yes, I would.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I wish to ask a question but will start by laying a predicate and ask the Senator's views on that predicate.

I rise to support the resolution offered by Senator LEE calling upon the Senate to investigate and hold hearings about the late-term abortion practices in this country.

This is especially important given the fact we are seeing allegations of similar conduct to that of Dr. Gosnell potentially being performed in other locations across the country. Indeed, there have been allegations of similar conduct in my hometown of Houston, TX, which I understand are being investigated by the local district attorney and other authorities and that need to be fully and thoroughly investigated.

The crimes committed by Dr. Gosnell are almost unspeakable. The harm inflicted to the mothers and to the babies who were born alive and had their lives willingly extinguished—unthinkable. The actions detailed in the grand jury report depict a house of horrors.

Knowing what we know now about what happened, everyone in this body should be supporting conducting an investigation to make sure there are not other Dr. Kermit Gosnells across this country. We need to make sure it is not happening to other unsuspecting mothers, that other newborn babies are not being murdered as they were in Dr. Gosnell's clinic.

Specifically this resolution states:

Congress and States should gather information about and correct abusive, unsanitary and illegal abortion practices and the interstate referral of women and girls to facilities engaged in dangerous or illegal second- or third-trimester procedures.

This body should be concerned what referrals were made to Dr. Gosnell and who else might be performing these late-term abortions in such horrific conditions.

This resolution goes on to say:

Congress has the responsibility to investigate and conduct hearings on abortions

performed near, at, or after viability in the United States, public policies regarding such, and evaluate the extent to which such abortions involve violations of the natural right to life of infants who are born alive or are capable of being born alive and therefore are entitled to equal protection under the law.

In my judgment this is a resolution everyone should support. Everyone who proclaims himself or herself to be a champion for women and children should enthusiastically support this resolution.

Many of these late-term abortion clinics serve under-privileged populations. Anyone who proclaims himself a champion dedicated to helping the most vulnerable should be supporting this resolution. The Senate has an obligation to conduct oversight.

Planned Parenthood, the Nation's largest abortion provider in 2001 performed 333,964 abortions in the United States. From 2011 to 2012, Planned Parenthood received 45 percent of its revenue from taxpayer-funded sources. Almost half of its income comes from the taxpayer. This body has an obligation to make sure there are not other Gosnell houses of horror practicing today.

The conditions described in the grand jury report shock the conscience. They describe how doctors and nurses worked without proper licenses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator from Utah has expired.

Mr. CRUZ. My question to the Senator is, does he see how any Senator of good faith, given these facts, could oppose this resolution?

Mr. LEE. I ask unanimous consent I be given 60 seconds to answer the question and then I will yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, in short, in response to the question from my colleague from Texas, I do find it difficult to understand why anyone would oppose this resolution. I also find it difficult to understand how this can be put on the same plate—as serious as other kinds of abuses are, as serious as other acts of medical malpractice may be, this one is different. This is about premeditated first degree murder of the most defenseless, most vulnerable people in our society, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Again, I renew my objection. Let me say, my two colleagues have made excellent closing arguments to the Gosnell jury. I would expect that to be the case since they are two well-trained, excellent lawyers. But the Gosnell case is over. It is done. He has been sentenced—or he will be shortly. These kinds of abuses ought to arouse outrage wherever and whenever they occur. Anytime, anywhere a doctor endangers a patient in violating standards of care, we ought to condemn them. So I urge my colleagues to join

me in the outrage I feel about the dentist in Oklahoma or the endoscopy center in Nevada or the nursing home director in California. In any case where prosecution is appropriate, an investigation should be done properly by State authorities who have jurisdiction, and they should condemn such practices. I ask them to join me in resolution S. 134.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I appreciate the courtesy of the Senator from Oklahoma, recognizing that he has other accommodations he has to deal with. I ask unanimous consent I be granted up to 4 minutes to speak after the Senator from Oklahoma completes his comments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. I thank the Senator from Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask the Chair if I am correct when I say after comments by the Senator from Virginia, the senior Senator from Texas will be recognized?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

IRAN SANCTIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, first of all, I think we, all of us, late in the week, are on a timeline. I have a very significant piece of legislation, S. 965, called the Iran Sanctions Implementation Act. I spent a long time on the floor yesterday talking about this. It occurred to me it is a little bit complicated. The longer we talk about it the more complicated it gets. I have shortened it. Let me make a couple of brief comments about where we are today in relationship to Iran and some of the other countries in the Middle East, and a solution to which everyone can agree to the problem that is there.

First of all, 70 percent of Iran's revenues come from their export of oil. What we have done successfully is had some modest means of reducing that, so we have actually cut their amount of exports in half over the last 4 or 5 years from 2.5 million barrels of oil a day to 1.25 million barrels of oil a day. That amounts to 70 percent of the resources, the revenue that Iran has.

What do they do with their revenue? First of all, we recognize something that people do not like to talk about; that is, our own intelligence says, and has said since 2007, by 2015 Iran will have a weapon and the delivery system for that weapon.

Our concern, of course, is that one of the things that happened in Barack Obama's first budget 4 years ago was, in addition to other things regarding the military, they did away with the ground-based interceptor in Poland which was designed specifically to take care of a missile coming from the east and, of course, what we had there was the threat from Iran. That is a threat.

The second thing they have, besides their nuclear buildup, is they are helping all the terrorist operations throughout the Middle East. We know they are very significant in assisting Assad in his barbaric slaughter of over 70,000 of the Syrian people. They are able to do this because Iran earns \$3 billion a month in oil revenue, 70 percent of their revenue. If Iran didn't have access to this money, its ability to influence the region would be either stopped or significantly curtailed. In other words, Iran cannot pose this threat without their oil revenues.

U.S. production is now 7 million barrels a day, which is 40 percent higher—put the chart up, please—40 percent higher than in 2008. When we look at the map, we can see back in the old days the oil belt was the western part of the United States. Look at it now. It has all changed. We have the Marcellus up there in Pennsylvania, which is now the second largest employer in Pennsylvania. It is scattered throughout.

The reason for this surge is because the use of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing has allowed us to reach reserves, reach production we otherwise could not do.

Here is the interesting thing: We have grown by 40 percent in our production, and all 100 percent of it is on State or private land. None of it is on Federal land. In fact, during this boom we are in the middle of right now that is so productive to the economy of most of the States, none of that came from the Federal Government. In fact, we had a reduction during this time in production from Federal lands.

The Institute for Energy Research recently issued a report stating that if we enacted policies that allowed aggressive development of all this off-limits land that is there right now, it would generate \$14 trillion in economic activity, create 2.5 million jobs, and reduce the deficit by \$2.7 billion. Most of all, we could become totally independent from having to import our energy from any other country.

This bill says if the President would, at his discretion—it would require the President to find some area where we can just increase our production from Federal lands 1.25 million barrels a day. That is just a small, minuscule part of all the production we could have. For example, in just this area, that would exceed 1.25 million barrels a day or this up here, in Alaska, or even offshore.

The Senator from Virginia is going to be speaking next. They have actually voted to go ahead and explore this off their shores. Any of these places would do that.

Why do we say 1.25 million barrels a day? That is what Iran exports. This is what would happen: If we were able to do that, that would be 1.25 million barrels a day that we in the United States would no longer have to import, which would open that up to those who are importing from Iran, and it would completely dry up 70 percent of their rev-

enue. Of course, the rewards of that would be great for our country.

We are looking at one of these rare situations where everything is good, everything that would come from this is beneficial. We could dry up their revenues that they are using right now to enhance their nuclear capability and to perform all these atrocious acts in the Middle East. At the same time, we would be able to lessen our dependence and provide all of the benefits that come from the use of this.

Eventually, we would like to be at a situation where we can do not just 1.25 million barrels a day but maybe 10 times that and become totally independent. In the meantime, we are only talking about one very small amount that we would be telling the President of the United States he is going to have to allow us to explore so we can stop Iran from doing the things they are doing today.

I thank those who have allowed me to have a little bit of time today, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The Senator from Virginia.

SEQUESTRATION

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator from Oklahoma and wish him good travels.

I rise briefly today to point out one more time some of the ramifications of the policy I have repeatedly called stupidity on steroids, which is our sequestration policy. Word came out earlier this week from the Department of Defense that the Secretary, to meet his sequestration numbers, is going to have to furlough teachers in Department of Defense schools for 5 days and education support personnel for 11 days.

Many of us on the floor of the Senate stand and praise our men and women who serve in the military, who defend our freedoms. I cannot think of anything that is more of an antithesis to those words we say, that we would praise their service, if we say: Yes, you go off and defend our Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan; meanwhile, your families and your children cannot go to school.

What makes this particularly difficult to stomach at this point is just today, Blue Star Families—one of our Nation's best veterans organizations, veterans support group organizations—came out and said in a list of priorities for military families, No. 1, the impact of deployments, repeated deployments on military families and particularly children; and, No. 2, military children education.

In my State and many other States, military families, particularly on base, have a military DOD school. Those schools provide a valuable service to those military families oftentimes who have their parents deployed. In my mind, how can we stand on the floor of this Senate and commend those men and women who serve and at the same