

I am very pleased they have been members of our team. For all of them and especially for the Senators and the support we have received today, we appreciate the support very much.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF GRISWOLD V. CONNECTICUT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 48 years ago on June 5, the U.S. Supreme Court made a landmark ruling in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, which legalized birth control for married couples in all 50 States and paved the way for women and men to have legal access to contraception.

The Justices' decision not only recognized birth control as a right protected under our Constitution, but empowered women and families to make decisions in the best interest of their health and well-being.

In fact, access to birth control has had such a dramatic impact on women and families in this country that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention named it one of the top 10 public health achievements of the past century, along with vaccinations and adding fluoride to water.

Family planning and contraceptive services give women and couples the ability to determine timing of births and family size.

Research shows that having smaller families and spacing out births improve the health of children and women.

Access to contraception also improves the economic and social well-being of women.

Contraception allows young women to postpone pregnancy until they finish school, secure a good job, and are as ready as any parent can be to start a family.

The benefits of contraception help not only women, but their children.

When parents have prepared themselves financially and mentally to love and support a child, the child reaps all the benefits.

While the Supreme Court's 1965 ruling on *Griswold v. Connecticut* paved the way for legalizing contraception, the Federal Government has played a key role in expanding access to family planning services.

In 1970, under President Nixon, title X was created and remains the only dedicated source of Federal funding for family planning services in the U.S.

Title X provides critical family planning and preventive health care to 5.2 million low-income and uninsured women and men across the country.

Title X services prevent nearly 1 million unintended pregnancies each year, almost half of which would otherwise end in abortion.

In 1972, 2 years after the creation of title X, Medicaid funding for family planning was authorized.

Last year, a key provision of the health care reform law took effect that builds on the legacy of *Griswold v. Connecticut*.

New health insurance plans will now cover a range of preventive health services, including contraception services, at no cost.

The annual cost of birth control pills can range from \$160 to \$600. For many women, that expense has been a barrier to accessing basic health care.

Over the last 48 years, we have made tremendous progress ensuring women have access to quality health care and are free to make decisions about their own health.

As we remember *Griswold v. Connecticut*, we must remember those who fought to ensure access to contraception. We must protect personal freedoms and defend our Nation from efforts to undermine access to basic health care.

AWARD OF ABILENE TROPHY TO ST. LOUIS REGION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the communities of St. Louis and Southwestern Illinois region for winning the Air Mobility Command Community Support—Award also known as the Abilene Trophy—for their support of Scott Air Force Base in 2012.

The Abilene Trophy is presented annually to a civilian community recognized for providing outstanding support to a nearby US Air Force Air Mobility Command base. The award has been presented every year since 1998 and highlights the role our communities play in support of our service men and women and their families.

Scott Air Force Base in St. Clair County, IL, is home to the 375th Air Mobility Wing, the Air Force Reserve Command's 932nd Airlift Wing, and the Illinois Air National Guard's 126th Air Refueling Wing. Scott Air Force Base also headquarters major military organizations such as USTRANSCOM, the Air Force Global Logistics Support Center, and the Air Mobility Command. Winning the prestigious Abilene Trophy is particularly meaningful, given the multiple missions supported there.

The nomination package for the Abilene Trophy cited over 270 examples of how the surrounding communities have supported military personnel at the base, including in-kind donations such as \$500,000 worth of documented material aid through the H.E.R.O.E.S. Care program. Partnerships were built that could help servicemembers and their families find appropriate resources. Servicemembers and their families were recognized by major league sports teams such as the Cardinals and the Rams and by community schools and businesses. Countless other examples of generosity, support and gratitude from the community have provided financial, physical, and emotional support throughout the year.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the men and women who have sacrificed their lives or go to work every day to protect our country. I am proud

to support those who have done so much for our Nation and am just as proud of those communities that do the same.

Congratulations to the Southwestern Illinois and St. Louis regions on winning the Abilene Trophy. Tomorrow's awards ceremony reminds us of your commitment to our servicemembers at Scott Air Force Base and to our military families.

SRI LANKA

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise to encourage our Department of State to review its current policies regarding the country of Sri Lanka, and seek further engagement with its leadership so as to assist them as they continue their progress toward complete reconciliation and reconstruction after 30 years of the civil war against the Tamil Tiger terrorists.

As you know, four years ago Sri Lanka defeated the Tamil rebels, and is currently recovering from the economic, political, and social upheaval caused by this destructive civil war. Peace has brought historic post-conflict recovery, and I find that Sri Lanka has brought the dividends of peace in an inclusive manner, in particular to those in the north and the east of the country from where suicide bombers and other terrorist attacks were once launched.

It is my understanding that, since the war ended, those two areas have seen an economic growth of 22%, compared to an average of 7.5% in the rest of the country. It is also my understanding that Sri Lanka has removed half a million anti-personnel mines, resettled 300,000 internally displaced people and re-established vital social services in the areas of health and education. It is making progress in other areas of reconciliation in accordance with its legislative and budgetary procedures, and is expected to conduct elections in the north in September—an important step towards political reconciliation. Such processes take time, as we have learned from our own Civil War.

It seems to me that Sri Lanka is developing into a key economy, both in its own right and as a gateway to India. It is my understanding that U.S. private investment there totals billions in long term Sri Lankan bonds. Such investments there, however, are not as visible as the airports and harbors financed by China and other governments. Regardless, it is my understanding that at this time, Sri Lanka continues to present a unique window of investment opportunities for U.S. companies.

In addition, Sri Lanka's geo-strategic location and deep-water ports could be vital to the long term financial and national security interests of the U.S. Some 50% of all container traffic and 70% of the world's energy supplies pass within sight of the Sri Lankan coast.

Understandably, U.S. policies towards Sri Lanka have focused on accountability for what happened during the last phases of the civil war as well as on steps toward reconciliation efforts that seek inclusion of former terrorist enemies into the democratic process. While these aspects are very important and deserving of support, I believe there is the opportunity to engage in a wider approach at the same time that takes into account economic and geostrategic considerations. Maybe a wider approach would have a positive influence overall.

I have expressed these points recently in correspondence to Secretary Kerry, urging him to undertake at the Department of State a review of our current policies towards Sri Lanka to ensure that we not only encourage continued reconciliation that includes political transparency especially in the upcoming election in the north but also recognize Sri Lanka's potential to be a strong financial and national security ally in the future.

Secretary Kerry has replied agreeing with me that promising economic growth is occurring in Sri Lanka after years of terrorist insurgency, and that this country can play a significant geopolitical role in U.S. strategic security interests in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. The State Department, however, points out that Sri Lanka still needs to achieve "meaningful reconciliation between the Sinhala majority and Tamil and Muslim minorities."

I take the State Department at its word, and believe the upcoming September 7 Provincial Council elections in the north can be a meaningful act of reconciliation between the Sinhala majority and Tamil Muslim minorities. And if they are deemed to be conducted in a free and fair manner, I will renew my request to Secretary Kerry to reassess our current policies towards Sri Lanka.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT MARTIN, TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the remarkable service of Robert Martin, who has spent his life overcoming racial barriers and giving back to his country through extraordinary military and public service.

Born and raised in Dubuque, IA, Mr. Martin, in his youth and throughout his life, demonstrated an exceptional commitment to academics, athletics, and community service. He participated in Boy Scouts despite threats and backlash from fellow scouts' parents. He was also ultimately inducted into the Dubuque Senior High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He graduated from Iowa State University earning a degree in electrical engineering and obtained a pilot's license.

Mr. Martin, while still in college, applied to join the U.S. Army Air Corps and was accepted after he was drafted into service. He began his military ca-

reer in Fort Dodge, but was transferred to Tuskegee, AL, to train in the Army's Black pilot program, where he received the rank of commissioned second lieutenant and specialized in operating the AT-6 Texan and the P-40 War Hawk. He then, in 1944, became an active fighter pilot in Italy, conducting over 60 long-range combat missions as part of the 100th Fighter Squadron. His squadron defended B-17 Flying Fortresses from German assaults. On March 3, 1945, he was shot down by ground fire in Yugoslavia. He parachuted from his burning plane and successfully avoided German capture with the help of Yugoslavian partisans. Upon his recovery, he returned to the U.S. and was honorably discharged.

After being discharged, Mr. Martin continued to serve in the Army Air Corps Reserves, rising to the rank of captain. Following his military career, he maintained a commitment to public service, serving as an engineer for Cook County, IL. He was also a leader in Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., an organization whose members travel the country as educators and historians.

Mr. Martin was awarded a number of accolades for his service, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Purple Heart, an Air Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, and, in 2007, the Congressional Gold Medal. Moreover, he was inducted into the Iowa Aviation Hall of Fame and presented the George Washington Carver Medal from Simpson College, which recognizes individuals who have served as an inspiration to others; demonstrated leadership and conviction; advanced the fields of science, education, the arts, or religion; and dedicated themselves to addressing humanitarian issues. Mr. Martin's record exemplifies the extraordinary military service African Americans performed and the dedication that they displayed for their country in spite of the prejudice they experienced.

Robert Martin is a remarkable citizen, truly deserving of his many decorations and my gratitude. I wish him and his family all the best and thank him and all the Tuskegee Airmen for their steadfast service.

CONSULTATION REQUEST

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my letter dated June 10, 2013, to the minority leader be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, June 10, 2013.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL: I am requesting that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous consent agreements or time limitations regarding H.R. 180, National Blue Alert Act of 2013.

I support the goals of this legislation and believe suspects who seriously injure or kill federal, state or local law enforcement offi-

cers in the line of duty should be apprehended as quickly as possible. However, I believe the responsibility to address this issue, as it relates to state and local law enforcement officers, lies with the states and local communities that these brave law enforcement officers serve. Furthermore, while I do not believe this issue is the responsibility of the federal government; if Congress does act, we can and must do so in a fiscally responsible manner. My concerns are included in, but not limited to, those outlined in this letter.

While this bill is well-intentioned, it will likely cost the American people several million dollars over 5 years without corresponding offsets. I recognize this bill no longer contains the authorization included in prior versions of this legislation; however, establishing a new program which requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to carry out additional responsibilities, even if implemented by existing staff, is not free of future costs. In examining last year's National Blue Alert Act of 2012 (H.R. 365), the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated the DOJ would incur an additional \$5 million over 5 years solely in administrative costs to operate the Blue Alert system. As this legislation made no changes from the 2012 bill, it is safe to assume those costs will recur.

It is irresponsible for Congress to jeopardize the future standard of living of our children by borrowing from future generations. The U.S. national debt is now over \$16.7 trillion. That means over \$53,000 in debt for each man, woman and child in the United States. A year ago, the national debt was \$15.7 trillion. Despite pledges to control spending, Washington adds billions to the national debt every single day. In just one year, our national debt has grown by \$1 trillion or 6.4%.

In addition to these fiscal concerns, there are several problems specific to this legislation. First, there is no need to establish a national Blue Alert system because many states have already developed their own Blue Alert programs for the same purposes outlined in this bill, including alerts issued for the injury or death of federal, as well as state and local law enforcement officers. In 2008, Florida and Texas were the first states to establish these programs. Fourteen additional states soon followed—Oklahoma, Maryland, Georgia, Delaware, California, Virginia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Utah, Colorado, South Carolina, Washington, Kentucky, and Ohio. This year, in July and October, respectively, Indiana and Connecticut will begin their Blue Alert systems. Several state legislatures currently have legislation pending that would establish a Blue Alert system, including Minnesota, Illinois and Alabama.

Furthermore, there is no data to support the success of any of the existing state Blue Alert programs. Oklahoma established its Blue Alert system in 2009, but it is not yet fully functional. The last five states to establish an alert system did so just last year. As a result, not only have states already established their own programs, but from the limited use of the existing systems, there is no clear evidence of a substantial need for a Blue Alert system, or of the consistent, successful apprehension of suspects as a direct result of a Blue Alert. If anything, we should wait for these programs to produce results that can be examined and determine whether this type of system is useful before instituting a federal one-size-fits-all program.

Second, while the bill's supporters likely envision pursuing suspects who have injured or killed a law enforcement officer in a routine traffic stop or while fleeing a crime scene, for example, the bill's definition of "law enforcement officer" is much broader.