

reasons now. But there are things we can do, and we have a real obligation to do.

It is a brand-new problem—or new in the last 20 years. It is getting worse and worse, and it condemns these kids to a life of poorer quality and shorter length. It is something we absolutely must address.

I applaud the administration's decision yesterday. What they did is said obesity—which before was this kind of vague syndrome or observation—is a disease, and when you call it a disease, people recognize it as a disease, and then you start looking at prevention, care, and treatment to reverse it. That is the significance.

Two things: First, for the first time, a major Federal health program recognizes obesity as a disease. It is a treatable disease—preventable but also treatable. The second is that it demonstrates, once again, that Secretary Thompson and the administration are taking extremely seriously the obesity epidemic which is occurring in this country.

The administration is attacking obesity on a multitude of fronts. It is needed. In my mind, it is long overdue that this Nation address this new but rapidly growing epidemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—or the CDC, as we all know it—reports that because of poor nutrition and lack of physical activity, obesity is on its way of surpassing smoking as the leading killer in the United States of America. Obesity is on its way of surpassing smoking as the leading killer in the United States of America.

Obesity contributes to other diseases, the diseases in which I specialize; that is, heart conditions, heart disease. It also affects a whole range of issues: orthopedic, pulmonary injuries as well.

The immediate impact will be twofold. First of all, it will be easier for Medicare beneficiaries and individuals with disabilities who are Medicare beneficiaries to get treatment. The barrier to treatment will be lowered.

When Medicare makes a decision, it has a spillover impact to the private sector. I think the spillover impact will be substantial, although the private sector has already moved ahead. They have already increased reimbursement for appropriate treatment for obesity in many areas. But the fact that the Federal Government speaks with a loud voice will have an impact on the private sector.

The public and private sector have to be very cautious. We talk about this on the floor of the Senate every time there is a new definition of something that needs to be treated. We have to be very cautious in deciding which specific treatments to cover. We need to make sure the interventions are effective, but we need to also make sure they are cost effective.

There are several treatments now for obesity that are available. Science will allow us to determine which of these treatment modalities are most effective and which are most cost effective.

Also—this applies to the HIV/AIDS virus, which I mentioned earlier today, and to obesity, which I mention now—prevention is a critically important aspect of the equation. Early intervention, especially among children, is the key to preventing lifelong obesity and obesity-related illnesses.

Nonetheless, I want to applaud the administration for this bold step. It will help prevent obesity and greatly improve strategies for helping not only seniors and individuals with disabilities but all Americans.

SUDAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, there is a second issue I want to mention that I addressed 2 weeks ago on the floor of the Senate and want to follow up on. It has to do with a tragic situation in Sudan, in the western part of Sudan in the three states of Darfur, Sudan.

The situation there, even over the last 3 weeks, has steadily deteriorated. We have hundreds of thousands of refugees that are currently at risk. We are entering the rainy season there, and that makes the delivery of relief supplies very difficult.

Since my comments on the floor of the Senate, Secretary of State Powell, in the first week of this month, went to the Darfur region and made observations and certain requests. At about the same time, Secretary General Kofi Annan also visited the region and made certain requests. Senator BROWNBACK, our distinguished colleague from Kansas, subsequent to their visit, also visited the region and made observations and with a video camera took some traumatic footage of the devastation going on there. Another delegation from the House will be going shortly.

We have to take action to address this humanitarian problem. The administration is working hard to get relief to these people who are suffering, but there is systematic violence that is going on against the civilian populations in Darfur by the government and by the militias that are supported by the government. That violence must come to an end.

I spend a lot of time in the Sudan and each year go to southern Sudan as part of medical mission work that I do. In the coming weeks or months, I will be returning to Sudan as part of this medical mission work. I look forward at that point in time to seeing if we are having an impact in both the southern part of the Sudan but also in the Darfur region and will report back to this body. Hopefully we will be able to report that we are making progress. Two million people are being affected by this crisis, so it is a large crisis. I do ask the Government of Sudan to take immediate steps to end the violence in that part of the world.

RETIREMENT OF POLICE CHIEF JERRY HOOVER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to express my congratulations to Reno Police Chief Jerry Hoover on his retire-

ment. The City of Reno and the State of Nevada owe this public servant a tremendous debt of gratitude for his hard work and strong dedication to law enforcement and the public safety.

Although Mr. Hoover spent 36 years in law enforcement, his service to our Nation in fact began with his combat service in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division. Since then he has dedicated his life to making our Nation's communities safer and has served admirably the people of San Diego, CA; Boulder, CO; St. Joseph, MO; and Reno, NV.

Chief Hoover provided strong and innovative leadership during a very challenging time for the Reno Police Department. Like police agencies throughout the country, the department under Chief Hoover's leadership has significantly expanded its responsibilities in recent years to meet our Nation's homeland security needs.

Reno's police officers have met this new challenge while also policing one of our Nation's fastest-growing metropolitan areas.

During his tenure, Chief Hoover helped create the Reno Model PTO training program that provides post-Academy police training with an emphasis on critical thinking and problem-solving. He also effectively drew on the resources of the entire Reno community to meet the city's law enforcement and public safety needs by initiating the Senior Auxiliary Volunteer Effort program, which trains volunteers 50 and older to assist with park and school patrols and special community projects.

Despite the demands of his position, Chief Hoover still found time to help train the next generation of law enforcement professionals through classes at the University of Nevada, Reno, and Nevada State College in Henderson. Even after his retirement from the Reno department, Chief Hoover will continue his lifelong commitment to effective law enforcement as a consultant to police agencies throughout the country.

Chief Hoover has led a distinguished career marked by generous service. Please join me in congratulating him on his retirement from the Reno Police Department and in wishing him luck in all his future endeavors.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight the scourge of human trafficking. Every day, in countries around the world and right here in the United States, people desperate for economic opportunity and seeking to follow their dreams of a better life are lured from home by the promises of jobs and security. Sadly, though, all too often they find themselves trapped in a nightmare, imprisoned by violent criminals, abused, violated, deceived, bought, and sold as chattel. Some of these victims of trafficking disappear, never seen nor heard from again.

Every year, traffickers strip thousands of people of their freedom and

imprison them in the dark underworld of prostitution, domestic servitude, sweat shops, and agricultural labor.

Trapped in debt bondage and faced with threats of physical harm to themselves or their families, trafficked persons have little choice but to try to work off their ballooning debts. Women forced into domestic servitude or sweatshop labor toil each day in abysmal, even dangerous conditions, earning no money and suffering physical and psychological abuse. And women and children trafficked into the sex industry constantly risk exposure to deadly diseases such as HIV and AIDS. Their only "escape" from the traffickers coming, if at all, is when the criminals discard them in the streets to die. This human trafficking is nothing short of modern day slavery.

Each year the United States publishes a report ranking countries for their failure to combat trafficking. Improvements have been made, but still the 2004 Trafficking In Persons Report estimates that 600,000–800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide across international borders; 14,500–17,500 are trafficked annually into the United States. This is even more chilling when one understands that these are new victims added each year to those whom traffickers have already ensnared. We must do better.

Last week, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Property Rights focused on the most fundamental of all civil rights in their July 7 hearing "Examining U.S. Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery." And this week, representatives from NGOs and the Bush administration, including the Departments of Justice, State, and Homeland Security, are convening in Florida for the "National Conference on Human Trafficking." It is heartening to see the work begun by the Clinton Administration continues to grow and strengthen.

The scourge of trafficking in women and children was a priority for me as First Lady and continues to be a priority for me as a U.S. Senator. I will do everything in my power to shine a light on this dark world that is so contrary to human dignity. Since the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, I have been working to raise awareness of the heinous practice of buying and selling women and children like commodities. I have seen the devastation it causes, and the lives and families it ruins. I remember very well crouching down by the chair of a 12-year-old girl who had been sold into prostitution by her own parents desperate for the income from that sale, only to have the child return home within a year, dying of AIDS. I have met other families who spend their nights at home worrying about what has happened to the daughter they haven't heard from since she went to the discotheque, or answered the ad to be a nanny or a clerk.

In the summer of 1997, I met with women leaders from Eastern and Cen-

tral Europe, as well as victims' family members who, with tears in their eyes, pleaded with me for help in dealing with this growing problem. Later that year, in Lviv, Ukraine, I launched a new information campaign designed to warn young women about the dangers posed by traffickers. And in the fall of 1999, at the meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe held in Istanbul, Turkey, I announced a \$1 million U.S. commitment to combat trafficking, and I called for greater economic opportunities to prevent young women from being driven into the hands of traffickers.

In recent years, beginning with the leadership of the Clinton administration, the U.S. has made great strides in understanding the horrors of trafficking. We have worked with other nations to combat those who try to reap profits from this horrible practice. In 1997, the United States, along with the European Union, formally launched a campaign to combat trafficking of women and girls and to warn potential victims of the risks. In March of 1998, President Clinton condemned human trafficking as a fundamental human rights violation and a growing organized crime problem. I joined the President, Secretary of State Albright, Attorney General Reno, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, and a high-ranking member of the Thai government for a White House announcement of the first presidential directive to prevent and deter trafficking and to protect victims. At that time, the President directed his interagency Council on Women to coordinate the development and implementation of a three-part strategy that would: first, prevent trafficking; second, provide protection and assistance for trafficking victims; and third, prosecute traffickers. This comprehensive strategic framework later guided the development of the anti-trafficking legislation passed by Congress.

The Clinton administration's State Department began raising the issue with foreign governments at the highest levels. Formal and informal working partnerships were forged with several foreign governments to address this international crisis, including the Ukraine and Finland. At the G-8 meeting in 1997, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright initiated discussions that resulted in 1998 with President Clinton and Italian Prime Minister Prodi formally signing the first bilateral agreement to cooperate on such anti-trafficking efforts as data collection and information sharing, prevention, assistance and law enforcement. We began the first U.S. funding of anti-trafficking programs in countries such as the Philippines and Bangladesh. Back then, no anti-trafficking legislation had passed so these were necessarily modest amounts by comparison to U.S. funding now, but it was a needed start.

There was more. Embassies were tasked with reporting on human traf-

ficking for the first time. And these assessments were included in the Department's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. Prevention efforts included publishing awareness pamphlets that were translated into multiple languages and distributed in many consular offices around the world. At the same time, the U.S. undertook the first official estimates of the magnitude of human trafficking world-wide and domestically, and funded the creation of a database on U.S. and international legislation on trafficking. Law enforcement training was initiated at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok and Budapest and in countries such as Thailand, Bulgaria, Romania and Bosnia.

The Attorney General and the Secretary of Labor established an interagency Task Force to coordinate investigations and prosecutions of trafficking cases. Even prior to the passage of the 2000 anti-trafficking law, the Department of Justice used the legal tools available to successfully prosecute human traffickers. In 1995, the Department brought the seminal case of *United States v. Manasurangkun* against traffickers who enticed seventy-one women from Thailand to travel to the United States by promising them good wages, good working hours, and a better life. Upon their arrival in El Monte, CA, they were held in slavery behind barbed wire and forced to work up to twenty hour days and under the watch of guards. Women were imprisoned for up to 7 years before being rescued. This case was followed by other landmark cases such as *United States v. Paoletti*, *United States v. Flores*, *United States v. Cadena* and *United States v. Mishulovich*. These and other cases successfully prosecuted by the Justice Department ranging from sexual slavery to forced labor demonstrated the many manifestations of human trafficking, all of which must be addressed. Investigations resulting from the Justice Department's creation of the first national telephone line to receive calls to assist trafficking victims anywhere in the United States led to growing prosecutions. I am pleased that since the anti-trafficking legislation was passed and signed into law in 2000, prosecutions have continued to increase. Again, though, we need to do more to support increasing the capacity to undertake the investigations and prosecutions of these cases.

Just as the Clinton administration and international organizations were beginning to highlight trafficking in persons as an international crisis, Senator Paul Wellstone—one of the greatest champions of civil rights to sit in this chamber—also recognized this growing abuse of human rights. He introduced, with Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, a resolution in 1998 that called trafficking a global human rights problem and directed the State Department to review it and report its findings to

Congress. Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER introduced a companion resolution and the led the charge in the House to bring attention to this issue.

The Clinton administration worked with Senator Wellstone, his Republican co-sponsor, Senator BROWNBACk, and Congressman CHRIS SMITH and former Congressman Sam Gejdenson in the House, to introduce the first comprehensive anti-trafficking bill in Congress. This culminated in the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

I supported adoption of the strongest possible legislation to eradicate trafficking in persons, and I was personally invested in the effort. The Clinton administration worked continuously with Congress on a bi-partisan basis to craft a bill to achieve this objective. We sought to institutionalize the comprehensive strategic framework—the “3 Ps”—that the Administration had been implementing as the core of the legislation. The resulting legislation incorporated prevention mechanisms and better and stronger prosecution, protection, and victim assistance tools. Upon its passage, President Clinton congratulated Congress and noted that this new law would lay the groundwork for future administrations to carry this important work forward, and would ensure that trafficking of persons assumes the prominent place on the world’s agenda that it deserves until we put an end to this horrible practice. I believed then, and I believe now, that this is one of the Clinton administrations greatest achievements and one of the most important parts of Senator Wellstone’s legacy. That law means the difference between freedom and enslavement for unknown numbers of potential trafficking victims for years to come.

I was also proud to support and work with Senator BROWNBACk on the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003. I know that Senator Wellstone would welcome our work in the Senate, and CHRIS SMITH’s continuing leadership in the House, as we fight one of the most egregious human rights violations, which Paul so passionately sought to bring to an end.

Looking forward, we must pursue concrete and pragmatic approaches to combating this evil. Our rhetoric must be matched by our actions so that the United States government’s seven year record of progress and success can continue and intensify. The fight against trafficking, like the fight against all forms of violence, must be supported with comprehensive strategies effectively implemented and appropriately funded here and abroad. There is still much to be done.

The United States must do more to combat trafficking within our own shores. Trafficking victims exist in our midst, in towns large and small. We must target resources on training and equipping law enforcement authorities to identify trafficking victims, victims

too often mischaracterized as “illegal migrants” and deported. And we must provide funds for NGOs working on the front lines in the United States to provide care and legal assistance to victims of all forms of trafficking.

I applaud and support State initiatives to combat trafficking. However, we must ensure that State and Federal authorities work cooperatively to combat this scourge. These welcome state efforts must augment the ongoing Federal fight against human trafficking. The Federal Government cannot retreat, but must do more to focus on victims nationwide. We must ensure that our Federal law enforcement authorities continue to have the financial and human resources necessary to investigate these crimes. We must further support our Federal, State, and local law enforcement, investigators, and prosecutors in efforts to mobilize in an integrated and coherent way to respond appropriately to the organized criminal enterprises of human trafficking who still operate with relative impunity here and around the world. We must ensure that we adopt a consistent and coordinated national response to these human rights violations.

Without witness protection and an appreciation of the risks that trafficking victims face in testifying against the perpetrators of these horrible crimes, the prosecution record will not improve. Conferences are a beginning, but not an end in themselves.

We must do more to tailor specific responses to the special needs of the children who are trafficked, especially in terms of care and protection. Root causes such as economic deprivation demand and warrant growing attention. There are no short-term fixes. The incidence of re-trafficking among children, many who have attempted to flee homes of violence and abuse or have been sold by their families, must be addressed.

Finally, the Senate must ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the U.N. Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The United States played a major role in developing this new international law on trafficking. Through the annual TIP reports we have communicated our expectation to the world that all countries will join in our fight against human trafficking. Now, for the sake of our own credibility abroad, we must show our own commitment to abide by international norms on trafficking.

The TIP report is a powerful tool for combating trafficking around the world. The threat of economic sanctions has inspired many countries to ramp up their efforts to combat trafficking within and across their borders. We must work closely in partnership with countries who are striving to do better and maintain the pressure on countries who are not. Meeting minimum standards is not enough. We

must not shy away from ranking as Tier 3 those countries that fail to do their part in the global fight against trafficking.

The simple fact is that we must do better in terms of demanding effectiveness of our programs and the significant funds that are spent by our government in the U.S. and around the world. There is no question that we are making progress, but we must do better for the sake of the victims of trafficking who try to endure, waiting and praying for our intervention in their nightmare. Every day, more women and girls are being sold into the sex industry, domestic servitude, sweatshop labor, debt bondage, and other forms of modern-day slavery. And more and more men, women, and children are being forced into various forms of manual labor, without any pay or any protection. These crimes are violations of human rights and human dignity, and the United States will not rest until they are stopped.

I am pleased that President Bush has carried on our country’s commitment to combat human trafficking. The progress we have made to date has been the result of strong bipartisan efforts that brought the horrors of trafficking to light. I hope we will continue to address this challenge in a bipartisan way.

With the passage of important legislation and Congress’s appropriation of much-needed funds to address this problem we have the opportunity to accomplish many things around the world and here at home to reduce human trafficking that we could only dream of before. The administration has declared its intention to spend \$150 million over the next two years to reduce human trafficking. Support for these efforts is needed now more than ever because of the stark reality that in the four years since the legislation was signed into law there nevertheless remains no evidence that human trafficking is diminishing.

It was Senator Wellstone who observed that despite some progress on human trafficking we must be impatient for better results. I believe that the need to be impatient is now more urgent than ever. In the fight against trafficking in persons, patience simply is not an option. We are making progress, but there is still so much more that needs to be done.

No country has done more than the United States to bring worldwide trafficking out of the shadows and into the glare of public attention, and I am committed to doing whatever I can to help continue that leadership. I look forward to working with the administration and both sides of the aisle on additional improvements to the current legislation and effective strategies for implementing it internationally and domestically.