

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.