

the basis for us to go forward and correct what I believe was a serious mistake we made in the last Congress.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

#### WORKING TOGETHER ON THE ABORTION ISSUE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I just heard my colleague talk about information that he feels would lead people to change their view on the tragic issue of late-term abortion. I want to make a clear point that I made today to the press when they asked me about this. I think it is deplorable that anyone on any side of this issue would knowingly misstate the truth, on any side. There is no excuse for that. We can't resolve problems in this Nation if people don't tell the truth.

The issue here is—and I think it is very important to state it—that under Roe versus Wade, which is the law of the land and has been upheld by the Supreme Court several times, a woman has a right to choose, without Government interference, in the early stages of her pregnancy. Now, that is a matter of debate. Some colleagues here think that is a very bad decision by the Court. Some colleagues here would like to outlaw abortion at any stage. But what Roe versus Wade said is postviability. Once the fetus is viable, the Government can come in and regulate abortion. I agree with that.

What Roe versus Wade says is that the Government can regulate abortion at the postviability stage very clearly, as long as the life of the woman is protected and her health is protected.

Now, Mr. President, I think we owe it to the women of this Nation to ensure that they do not die, and if they have a very complicated pregnancy, where if they were to carry the child to term, they would lose their life or endure severe adverse health consequences where perhaps they could be paralyzed for life or become infertile—we had women, several of whom were religious Catholics and consider themselves pro-life, that had to go through and endure this procedure because they were told either their life was at stake or they could never carry another child.

So the issue isn't about how many times this procedure is used. My view is that even if it is used once incorrectly, it is wrong. I think what we ought to do is say that we should never allow an abortion in the late term, postviability, unless it is necessary to protect the life of the woman or her health. And I think that what we ought to start doing in this U.S. Senate is to start to come together on a couple of things. I don't think we are ever going to agree on the basis of Roe versus Wade. I think my friend from Indiana believes that abortion is wrong, and he is willing to outlaw it. I support Roe versus Wade. We have a fair disagreement. So we can't come together on that.

I think we can come together on two issues surrounding this difficult issue. First, family planning. We ought to all support family planning, so that every child is a wanted child and so that the number of abortions would drop dramatically. I was so pleased to see colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle join with colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle and make a profamily planning statement. We ought to come together on that, and we ought to come together on the issue of late-term abortion. We ought to say it should not be allowed, unless it is necessary to save the life of a mother or spare her irreparable harm.

I really think we have an opportunity now, because this issue has been brought up again, to walk down the aisle together on those two points—family planning and on the late-term abortion issue. Consistent with Roe versus Wade, we can do that.

So, Mr. President, I know we will be revisiting this issue. I will, once again, bring to the floor the stories of the women who had to have these procedures, postviability, because their life was in danger or they might have been infertile. I will continue to put the woman's face on the issue. I hope we can reach agreement, in a bipartisan way, on this matter and move forward so that, in essence, we can reduce the number of abortions in this country and that every child can be a healthy and a wanted child. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

#### ABORTION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me commend the distinguished Senator from California for her remarks. I find myself in complete agreement with what she has just said. I hope that this year, as opposed to last year, we can find a solution, that we can resolve the differences that may not be insurmountable in coming to grips with both of the issues—family planning and late-term abortion.

If we can find the language that says that, with respect to all procedures, postviability abortions ought to be outlawed, except in those rare, rare circumstances involving the life and emergency health situations so that we would protect the woman from irreparable harm or enable her to have another child at a later date, is something that I hope we can all support and come together to resolve. So, again, I thank her for her comments, and I would like to work very much with the Senator from Indiana, who has spent a lot of time on this issue to resolve this matter in a successful way sometime this session.

#### SENATOR GLENN'S RETIREMENT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, last Thursday our colleague, Senator JOHN

GLENN, announced he will be retiring from the Senate at the end of his current term in 1998. While I am saddened by his decision, I certainly understand it, and I want to take a few moments to pay tribute to a man who has given a lifetime of service to his country.

Soldier, astronaut, hero, businessman, statesman, nuts-and-bolts reformer. All of these words accurately describe the long, distinguished career of JOHN GLENN. Courage, tenacity, modesty, authenticity, the "Right Stuff." These words describe the character of JOHN GLENN, the ingredients that have made this great career so memorable.

When he retires on the cusp of the 21st century, JOHN GLENN will likely be remembered as one of the great American heroes of the 20th century, both for his heroism in battle and for conquering the peaceful but uncharted frontiers of space. But he should also be remembered as a Senator who helped prepare his government to enter the 21st century as a modern, efficient force for good in people's lives.

JOHN GLENN first answered his country's call when he joined the Naval Aviation Cadet Program shortly after Pearl Harbor. He was commissioned in the Marines in 1943. First Lieutenant GLENN flew nearly 60 combat missions in the Pacific theater. His great courage and skill earned him 2 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 10 Air Medals.

After the war, JOHN GLENN remained in the Marines, was promoted to the rank of major, then distinguished himself once again in the Korean conflict. He flew 90 combat missions in just 8 months, won 2 more Distinguished Flying Crosses, 8 more Air Medals, and numerous accolades from his fellow Marines, including the titles Mig-mad Marine."

JOHN GLENN could have retired from the military after Korea and entered civilian life a decorated hero. He chose instead to stay in the service and take on more challenges, including new frontiers that, at that time, existed only in the imaginations of most men.

As a military test pilot in 1957, JOHN GLENN established a new flight speed record, earning credit for the first-ever transcontinental supersonic flight. This record flight also earned him his fifth Distinguished Flying Cross and caught the eye of NASA's Project Mercury program, dedicated to launch the first human into space. As a Mercury astronaut, JOHN GLENN put in many months of intense training, and in 1961 he was chosen to make America's first attempt to orbit the Earth.

Numerous technical and weather problems delayed his attempt for 2 months. One can only imagine the pressure of an on-again, off-again wait for a risky, dangerous feat that no man had ever accomplished. But JOHN GLENN's moment finally came when an Atlas-D rocket launched his tiny capsule, *Friendship 7*, into Earth's orbit on February 20, 1962.