

that was brand new to American law, coming from actually common law, and that was viability. What used to be in common law when they would discuss quickening, when the child could kick and move, they would now consider this child a child worthy of protection. They asked the question: When is it possible for a fetus to be alive? In January of 1973, they said they would have to leave it up to medical technology as to when that child would be viable.

Fast forward up to today. Let's talk about when a child is considered viable. Let's talk about what happens now. We know at 20 weeks that child can respond to different stimuli. That child feels pain. That child can respond to normal things that are happening around it. I can distinctly remember, with both of my daughters, my wife and I went in at 20 weeks to be able to look at the sonogram because at 20 weeks, that was the first time the doctor could say whether we were going to have a boy or a girl, and we could see the health of my two daughters. That was a big day for us, to be able to go in and see the sonogram and to know it is a girl and to be able to watch them move around in the womb, to dream about what her name would be and what they would look like. Now one daughter is in college, and one is in high school. But the first time I ever laid eyes on them, they were 20 weeks old, when we got a peak into the womb with the sonogram.

This bill asks a simple question, this bill that deals with pain-capable. This pain-capable bill asks the question: Is the child alive at five months, when the baby can kick, suck its thumb, stretch, yawn, make faces; when medical science tells us they can experience pain, is that child alive?

Recently The New York Times did a report studying this one issue about children that are born extremely early—at this exact time we are discussing right now—how many of the children that are born even that early make it. The New York Times' latest study said more than 25 percent of them make it.

Let me tell my colleagues about one of them. Her name is Violet. She is the daughter of a friend of mine. She is a pretty amazing young lady. She was born at this exact date we are discussing, and she was born at 14 ounces. She would fit into your hand, less than a pound. That tiny little girl who had such a tough start is a 1-year-old now. She is not 14 ounces, she is 15 pounds and—thanks for asking—she is doing great. She is healthy and strong and she is beautiful. You ought to see her beautiful face with the bow on the top of her head—a sparkling little girl. She was born at 14 ounces.

I am asking our Nation to think about this again. The discussion in 1973 about viability needs to catch up to the science of today. At 14 ounces and at 5 months of gestation, that little girl is doing great. Yet in many places in our

country—not all but in many places in our country—that child can still be executed in the womb and no one would bat an eye.

This is a conversation our Nation needs to have. I can't imagine it would be controversial to make a simple statement. When a child can feel pain, when a child is viable—even the Supreme Court from 1973 would look at this time period and say that is viability—at that moment, should we as a nation step up and protect children? This shouldn't be about whether a child can feel pain. We know that child can feel pain. It is not even about viability. We know that child is viable. In fact, I know her name. It is about when our laws catch up to our morals and to our science.

Late-term abortions in many areas of our country are already illegal. Let's address this. As a people and as a nation, I am asking a simple thing. When we know the child can feel pain, when we know they are viable, let's treat them as a child. Let's honor that child as alive, and let's say we don't do abortions when we know that child is viable. It is a straightforward issue that I hope will not be controversial. This is not about women's health. This is about the health of little boys and little girls who need our Nation to stay with them.

This bill we can pass. A lot of important things we are dealing with—the budget, the Iran nuclear negotiations—but can we not stop for a moment and say our Nation will guard our most vulnerable? Can we not protect our children? I think we can do both.

I yield back.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which protects unborn babies who are capable of feeling pain from abortions. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Senate version of this bill and applaud our Leader for bringing the bill to the floor.

According to the National Library of Medicine, a baby's major systems and structures develop at week 5 of fetal development. Blood cells, kidney cells, and nerve cells develop at this time; and the baby's brain, spinal cord, and heart begin to develop. During the sixth and seventh weeks, a baby's brain forms into five different areas and a baby's heart beats at a regular rhythm, with blood pumping through the main vessels. Lungs start to form during week 8, and all essential organs have begun to grow by week 9.

The National Library of Medicine reports that a baby's face is well-formed between weeks 11 and 14. Bones become harder between weeks 15 and 18, and the baby's liver and pancreas produce secretions. Between weeks 19 and 21, a baby can hear and swallow.

Some of my colleagues are aware that this issue is very personal for me. Our daughter Amy was born three months premature. She weighed 2 pounds and the doctor's advice was to wait and see. We took Amy to Wyo-

ming's biggest hospital to get the best kind of care we could find. When my wife, Diana, and I would visit her, the nurses often told us it wasn't looking good. We were even asked if we had had Amy baptized. When we said she was, a relieved nurse said, "Good. We've never lost a baptized preemie."

Amy is a fighter, and she lived. Today, she is a teacher in Wyoming, and Diana and I were so proud to see her get married last year. What I learned from watching Amy is how hard a 6-month old baby struggles to live. I want babies like Amy to be protected. I firmly believe that every life demands our respect as a special gift from God, and I urge my colleagues to support the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act as a step in the right direction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFTER-SCHOOL ALL-STARS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I recognize the 20th anniversary of the After-School All-Stars of Greater Las Vegas, NV.

In 1995, Elaine Wynn established the Greater Las Vegas Inner-City Games to provide thousands of young Nevadans with a fun, safe, and positive place to go during after-school hours. In 2003, the program was expanded to include more services and the program was transformed into the After-School All-Stars.

Over the past two decades, After-School All-Stars has provided more than 120,000 underprivileged Southern Nevadans with a free and comprehensive after-school program. Today, the After-School All-Stars program has reached 12 states, including the District of Columbia.

After-School All-Stars takes pride in providing its students with the opportunity to participate in exciting and engaging activities, while also building self-esteem. This important program teaches its participants the value of saying no to drugs and yes to hope and offers students academic support, enrichment activities, and health and fitness awareness. Through its mission, After-School All-Stars is working to graduate students from high school, prepare them for college and future careers, and encourage them to give back to their communities.

This organization has impacted the lives of Nevada students for 20 years, and I applaud the After-School All-Stars program of Greater Las Vegas for their dedication to improving the lives