

that gives OLC opinions the force of law.’

The Attorney General is absolutely correct. Only Congress can change the Wire Act, and only the courts can interpret the act’s reach.

To make clear that the Wire Act still bans all Internet gambling, the committee report accompanying the CJS appropriations bill includes the following statement:

Internet Gambling.—Since 1961, the Wire Act has prohibited nearly all forms of gambling over interstate wires, including the Internet. However, beginning in 2011, certain States began to permit Internet gambling. The Committee notes that the Wire Act did not change in 2011. The Committee also notes that the Supreme Court of the United States has stated that “criminal laws are for courts, not for the Government, to construe.” *Abramski v. U.S.*, 134 S.Ct. 2259, 2274, 2014, internal citation omitted.

I was pleased to join with my colleague from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, in offering this language. I appreciate the chairman and the ranking member having agreed to have it included with this legislation.

Any jurisdiction considering authorizing Internet gambling—and any entity seeking to participate in offering online casinos in this country—is well advised to consider that the Justice Department decision of 2011 did not change the Wire Act.

The question of whether there should be online casinos in this Nation has been polled widely over the past few years. It seems that no matter where one goes, Internet gambling is opposed by the public by wide margins, even in States where there is significant support for land-based casinos.

The public recognizes that there is something fundamentally different between having to go to a destination to place a bet and having a casino come to you, in your own home or office on an electronic device.

Regardless of how Senators may feel about this issue, I hope we can all agree that whether Internet gambling should be permitted in this country is a question for Congress to determine, not unelected Federal bureaucrats.

POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have come to the floor today to shed some light on the impacts of postpartum depression among our Nation’s mothers.

Just a bit over a month ago, I sat down with a local Anchorage reporter as part of a series addressing the impacts of postpartum depression, PPD. As part of a four-part series, seven brave, strong, passionate women from the Anchorage community came forward and shared their stories. I joined those women in sharing my own account of the difficulties I faced as I transitioned into my new role as a mother.

I have been inspired by these women and other advocates that fight so hard to help raise awareness of PPD, and I

wanted to share the story of one woman who lost her daughter to PPD. I met this woman shortly after I filmed my interview. She works in Anchorage and Wasilla, AK, as a child and adolescent psychiatrist and has always been passionate about providing care and support to children and adolescents in an effort to reduce and prevent suicide. She began to advocate for PPD after her daughter, Brittany, suffered and ultimately lost her life to PPD. She was only 25 years old.

Brittany was a bright, passionate, and lively young woman. She was born in Fairfax, VA in 1989. She excelled in school and graduated with an international baccalaureate degree at age 16 from Mount Vernon High School. Brittany loved animals and dreamt of becoming a sports veterinarian 1 day. She continued to excel academically while taking preveterinarian courses through the University of Pittsburg and later online through North Carolina State University.

One of Brittany’s main life goals was to race in one of my favorite Alaskan events, the Iditarod. She owned, raced, and showed several Siberian Huskies, but also worked as a dog handler for Karen Ramstead as part of Karen’s preparation for the Iditarod. But above all else, Brittany considered motherhood to be her greatest achievement.

Sadly, she began to struggle with PPD after a complicated delivery resulting with her newborn son spending a week in the neonatal intensive care unit. Brittany suffered from violent and powerful emotions and sought treatment from her physicians for PPD. Her cries for help went unanswered as her physicians were unable or were ill-equipped to help her. Around her son’s first birthday Brittany lost her battle with PPD. Shortly thereafter, a successful Iditarod athlete, DeeDee Janrowe, raced the Iditarod in Brittany’s honor. As I have said, Brittany was a bright, motivated, loving young woman who was stuck down early in her life because she did not have the access to the treatment she needed. Her story is one of many. PPD impacts women of every race, income, and background.

All too often, women who have PPD feel helpless, overwhelmed, and confused. They may feel like they are not properly bonded with their babies or ill-equipped for parenthood and cannot understand what might have gone wrong. Often, we assume that with parenthood comes immediate joy, but in fact, one in seven mothers nationwide will suffer from PPD. In Alaska, our numbers are twice the national average at one in three. There are some non-profit organization that seek to raise awareness and help women connect with treatment for PPD, but often, they are located in only the most populous parts of a State, but what about the rural communities? What about the women who are unable to receive a proper screening, diagnosis, or treatment early on?

That is why I support legislation like the Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadows Act, and I want to thank Senators ALEXANDER, MURRAY, CASSIDY, and MURPHY for including PPD in the Mental Health Reform Act. I have cosponsored both pieces of legislation because I believe we must do more to ensure the proper screening and treatment of PPD. I support efforts to improve culturally competent programs that will help educate physicians, especially primary care providers, on the proper detection and treatment of PPD. This will not only benefit the women suffering from PPD but improve the health and well-being of their children and their families as a whole. With so many mothers across Alaska and the Nation facing PPD, it is essential we put this issue at the forefront and openly discuss, educate, and improve our understanding of this illness.

I stand here today in support of women all across the Nation facing PPD, and I will continue to advocate for the services they deserve.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH 2016

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, LGBT, Pride Month. Reaching back to Stonewall, June carries a special significance for LGBT individuals across the Nation. For more than 40 years LGBT Pride month has been a time for all Americans to celebrate the immeasurable contributions LGBT individuals have made to our great Nation, the progress the LGBT community has made in the U.S. and abroad, and the challenges faced in the fight for equality.

America’s never-ending effort to become a “more perfect union” involves the long quest to secure equal rights and justice for the LGBT community by, as I just said, changing hearts, minds, and policy. The last year has seen hard-fought progress for the LGBT Americans.

With the Supreme Court’s decision last June in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, same-sex marriage is now a fundamental right in every State in the Union. After years of legal battles and families being told that the government would not recognize their love and mutual commitment in the same way it might view their neighbors, the Supreme Court finally ruled that equality is an inherently American value that should not be denied or taken away from anyone. And just this past Friday, President Obama designated the historic site of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in New York City as our Nation’s newest national monument. This designation will create the first official National Park Service unit dedicated to telling the story of LGBT Americans.

The LGBT community has made strides in righting past wrongs. I commend Defense Secretary Ash Carter for

adding sexual orientation to the U.S. military's equal opportunity program. Roughly a year after that historic decision, Eric Fanning, an eminently qualified public servant, with a long track record of working on behalf of the men, women, and families of our Armed Forces, finally was confirmed by the Senate to become the Secretary of the Army. Secretary Fanning is openly gay, and his confirmation reflects a long overdue but commonsense understanding that sexual orientation and gender identity are not relevant to one's ability to serve this nation.

Our military was not alone in taking steps to ensure that all who wish to serve their country and community are able to do so without discrimination.

The Boy Scouts of America announced that, "the national executive board ratified a resolution removing the national restriction on openly gay leaders and employees."

I think this move by the Boy Scouts is worth noting because it impacts two issues that I find very important to the future of this country: the welfare of our children and encouraging civic involvement. The Boy Scouts of America are one of our most venerated civic organizations serving young people. I believe that no individual should be prevented from serving their country or enriching their community based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Boy Scouts' decision not to discriminate will lead to more well-rounded scouts.

For as much progress as we have seen in the last year, there have been several recent events that show our need to recommit to building a more perfect union for all Americans.

The shooting on June 12 in Orlando and attacks on LGBT individuals across the country and abroad show that in far too many places across the world, being openly LGBT still carries great risk.

That an attacker would target this venue, especially during Gay Pride Month, is a horrific tragedy and a senseless loss of human lives.

My deepest sympathies are with those killed and injured in this terror attack and hate crime, along with their families and loved ones. My thanks go out to the first responders who saved lives in the midst of such danger. There is no simple solution to preventing this type of tragedy. But one step that would help is for Congress to enact commonsense gun safety legislation in the coming days.

American values of tolerance, compassion, freedom, and love for thy neighbor must win out over hate, intolerance, and homophobia.

No one should fear for their lives simply because of who they are. This moral truism extends beyond the LGBT community. And so it is disturbing that State legislatures have recently taken steps to breathe new life into the defunct and deplorable practice of separate but equal facilities. Attempts to restrict the use of public fa-

cilities by transgender people is unsettling to say the least.

As a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE, Parliamentary Assembly, I take special note when foreign legislatures take steps to codify discrimination.

When we see discrimination happening in our own society, we must take action.

In our democracy, state-sponsored discrimination sends two strong messages. First, it tells those who are being discriminated against that the government does not fully recognize you as an equal member of the society. Secondly, it sends a not-so-subtle wink and a nod to private citizens and businesses that further discrimination and abuse will be tolerated.

Thankfully, Americans of every gender sexual orientation, and gender identity have spoken out against these laws.

In the U.S. Senate, I have been a proud ally of the LGBT community and will continue to oppose efforts to return to a time when our government-sanctioned discrimination.

This struggle for equal rights continues not only in our States, but here in the Congress. The House of Representatives, for example, recently considered a provision to prevent businesses that contract with the U.S. Government from discriminating against LGBT employees. It is shameful that, in 2016, the Congress of the United States of America cannot agree that discriminating against Americans based on a core identifying characteristic is wrong, just as it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of race or religion.

Congress should take up and pass the Equality Act, which I am proud to co-sponsor, which would provide comprehensive antidiscrimination protection for LGBT individuals in areas such as housing, education, employment, credit, and public accommodations.

Congress should take up and pass my End Racial Profiling Act, which prohibits discriminatory profiling by law enforcement officers, including profiling based on gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

As ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I have worked to put international human rights at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy, whenever possible. The international community has made notable strides in ensuring that LGBT individuals are treated with the respect and dignity that all people deserve.

Nepal took the commendable step of including LGBT protections in their new constitution. Malta, Ireland, Thailand, Bolivia, and Vietnam all passed laws protecting transgender individuals.

Ukraine outlawed LGBT workplace discrimination, Kazakhstan struck

down a dangerous anti-LGBT law, and Mozambique decriminalized homosexuality. These are small but important steps.

But as much as we can and should celebrate global progress on these matters, we have also seen troubling setbacks. In too many countries, being LGBT still is criminalized or met with violence, most recently with the brutal murder of Xulhaz Mannan, a USAID employee at the U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh and editor of Bangladesh's first and only LGBT magazine. Tragically, what happened to Mr. Mannan in Bangladesh is seen over and over again around the world. LGBT rights are human rights, and as we engage with the international community on human rights, we must prioritize LGBT rights.

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, the American experience is about individuals working together to build a more perfect union by changing hearts, minds, and policy. Since our founding, the U.S. Senate has played a key role in achieving this goal. It is very clear that ensuing LGBT Americans are afforded all the same rights and protections as their neighbors is central to building that more perfect union. The Senate should stand as a bulwark against intolerance and guardian of civil rights for LGBT individuals everywhere.

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to recognize the Baltimore Pride Celebration. Baltimore Pride will be held for the 41st time on July 19-24. Baltimore has a strong LGBT community with a long history of activism and civic engagement. The Baltimore Pride Celebration is a chance to celebrate all the amazing contributions LGBT Baltimoreans make to my hometown.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD HAYES

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Pearl Harbor survivor and World War II veteran, Howard Hayes. Mr. Hayes was aboard United States Coast Guard Cutter Roger B. Taney, USCGC TANEY, and moored in Honolulu Harbor as the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred right next door. It gives me great pleasure to honor Mr. Hayes for his bravery and service during World War II, especially on that specific day, December 7, 1941, when he selflessly placed his life on the line to defend our Nation.

Mr. Hayes joined the U.S. Coast Guard on October 21, 1940, and served on USCGC TANEY as a cook second class. His battle station was manning the range finder on the bridge of the ship. On December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Mr. Hayes saw the planes flying overhead and knew it was not a drill. After arriving at the range finder, Mr. Hayes and his crewmates were able to shoot down four planes during the attack. I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Hayes for his service and sacrifice, which are invaluable to our Nation.