

Deeply split Supreme Court wrestles with abortion case

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Supreme Court deeply split over abortion wrestled Wednesday with widely replicated Texas regulations that could drastically cut the number of abortion clinics in the state. As ever, Justice Anthony Kennedy appeared to hold the outcome in his hands on a court operating with eight justices since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

The court's most significant abortion case since the early 1990s cracked with intensity during 85 minutes of pointed questions from liberal and conservative justices that suggested little common ground in resolving the clinics' claim that the regulations are medically unnecessary and unconstitutionally limit a woman's right to an abortion.

Texas says it is trying to protect women's health in rules that require doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals and force clinics to meet hospital-like standards for outpatient surgery. The rules would cut the number of abortion clinics in the state by three-fourths, abortion providers say.

Questions

The three women justices and Justice Stephen Breyer repeatedly questioned why Texas needed to enact the 2013 law. "But what is the legitimate interest in protecting their health? What evidence is there that under the prior law, the prior law was not sufficiently protective of the women's health?" Ginsburg asked Texas Solicitor General Scott Keller.

More than 210 women are hospitalized annually as a result of complications from abortions, Keller said. Pressed by Ginsburg, Keller acknowledged that was a complication rate of less than 1 percent of the state's 70,000 or so abortions a year, but said the state still could act to make abortion safer.

The clinics, backed by the Obama administration, argue that the regulations already have closed half the roughly 40 clinics that existed before the law was enacted and that only about 10 clinics would remain if it is allowed to take full effect.

The high court, again divided between liberals and conserva-



Anti-abortion protesters rally outside the Supreme Court in Washington, Wednesday. The abortion debate is returning to the Supreme Court in the midst of a raucous presidential campaign and less than three weeks after Justice Antonin Scalia's death. notforsale



Pro-abortion rights protesters rally outside the Supreme Court in Washington, Wednesday. The justices heard the biggest case on the topic in nearly a quarter century and are considering whether a Texas law that regulates abortion clinics hampers a woman's constitutional right to obtain an abortion.

tives, has blocked the surgical center requirement from taking effect.

Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr. urged the court to offer a new endorsement of the abortion right it last affirmed in 1992. "If that right still does retain real substance, then this law cannot stand. The burdens it imposes, the obstacles, are far beyond anything that this Court has countenanced. And the justification for it is far weaker than anything that this Court has countenanced," Verrilli said.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito pressed the lawyer for the clinics, Stephanie Toti, to cite evidence showing that the regulations have had the drastic effect she claimed. Both Alito and Roberts questioned whether some clinics closed for reasons independent of the regulations.

"What evidence is there that ties the closures to the requirements?" Roberts asked. Only Justice Clarence Thomas, who broke 10 years of silence at arguments on Monday, did not ask any questions.

Decisive vote

Even with the outspoken abortion rights opponent Scalia on the court, Kennedy would have held the decisive vote. He provided the margin of victory in the 1992 case that bolstered the abortion right the court declared in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. He wrote the majority opinion in another 5-4 case in 2007 that upheld a federal ban on the procedure known as partial-birth abortion.

Kennedy's questions Wednesday did not make clear where he is headed. But he holds the key to whether the court splits

4-4, a result that would leave the regulations in place, but not resolve the issue nationally. He could side with his four more liberal colleagues to rule for the clinics and roll back the regulations.

Kennedy also suggested another outcome that would in essence put the issue on hold for a time to see whether the remaining clinics in Texas are able to accommodate the demand for abortion in the nation's second-most-populous state.

If the court is evenly divided, the justices could decide to rehear the case once a new colleague joins them. President Barack Obama says he will nominate a successor to Scalia. But Senate Republicans, backed by the party's presidential candidates, have pledged to keep Scalia's seat empty so that the next president can fill it after taking office in January 2017.

Kennedy appeared concerned that one effect of the 2013 Texas law is that it has lowered the number of abortions resulting from women taking pills and increased the number of more invasive surgical abortions, which he said "may not be medically wise."

The hearing took place in the middle of a raucous presidential campaign, and the scene outside the court on Wednesday had the feel of a campaign rally.

Dozens of anti-abortion protesters chanted "pro-life, pro-woman" while hundreds of abortion rights advocates nearby shouted "abortion is a human right."



International Space Station crew member Scott Kelly of the U.S. shows a victory sign after landing near the town of Dzhezkazgan, Kazakhstan, on Wednesday.

Yearlong spacemen embrace fresh, frigid air back on Earth

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Ah, there's nothing like a blast of fresh, frigid air to welcome you back to the planet after nearly a year cooped up in space.

That's the word from astronaut Scott Kelly, NASA's space-endurance champ who returned to bitterly cold Kazakhstan on Wednesday, along with his roommate for the past year, Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko.

In a NASA interview before heading home to Houston, Kelly said it was "amazing" to feel the cold air when the hatch of his Soyuz capsule popped open after touchdown.

"I don't mean to say it's not fresh on the space station," he said, "but there's nothing like new cold air coming into the capsule."

Both Kelly, 52, and Kornienko, 55, yearned for nature throughout their 340-day mission at the International Space Station, a dry run by NASA for eventual trips to Mars.

"Just like Scott, I wanted to see Earth and I wanted to smell that fresh air. This is an unforgettable feeling," Kornienko said.

It was the longest an American ever lived in space, although nothing new for the Russians. The world record is 438 days, set back in the mid-1990s at the former Mir space station. Even before that, a pair of Soviet cosmonauts had racked up a full one-year spaceflight.

"Congratulations on your record," former cosmonaut and

Kazak space agency chief Talgat Musabayev said at a welcoming ceremony. He couldn't resist: "Of course, it was already done 28 years ago."

President Barack Obama joined the chorus of praise pouring in.

"Welcome back to Earth, @StationCDRKelly! Your year in space is vital to the future of American space travel. Hope gravity isn't a drag!" Obama said via Twitter.

The latest one-year space subjects quickly parted company, Kelly flying back to Houston and Kornienko to Star City, Russia, near Moscow.

Kelly acknowledged it was bittersweet leaving the space station — his home since last March, currently staffed by three men until the arrival of three more in two weeks.

"I'd been there a long time, so I looked forward to leaving. But at the same time, it's a magnificent place and I'm going to miss it," he said.

Neither will be saying goodbye — in Russian, do svidaniya — to medical tests anytime soon.

Minutes after emerging from their capsule, they were whisked in chairs to a medical tent where they did their best to stand, walk, jump, navigate obstacles — everything an astronaut might need to do immediately upon arriving at Mars.

NASA aims to put astronauts on the red planet in the 2030s, but first wants to know how the body — and mind — will fare during the 2½-year expedition. Kelly ranked physical isolation aboard the 250-mile-high platform, from those he loved, as his biggest challenge.

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings
THURSDAY

| THURSDAY EVENING | | | | | | | | | | | | MARCH 3 | |
|------------------|-------|--|---|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| A | L | 6 PM | 6:30 | 7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM | 11:30 |
| 2 | KATU | (2) KATU News at 6 | | Jeopardy! | Wheel of Fortune | Grey's Anatomy "My Next Life" (N) | The Family "Pilot" (P) (N) | Murder "Something Bad Happened" (N) | KATU News at 11 (3:5) Jimmy Kimmel | | | | |
| 3 | KRCW | (3) Seinfeld | Seinfeld | Modern Family | Modern Family | Legends of Tomorrow "Marooned" (N) | The 100 "Thirteen" (N) | KGW News at 10 (3:35) Access H. | Met Your Mother "Met Your Mother | | | | |
| 4 | KOMO | (4) KOMO 4 News | | Wheel of Fortune | Jeopardy! | Grey's Anatomy "My Next Life" (N) | The Family "Pilot" (P) (N) | Murder "Something Bad Happened" (N) | KOMO 4 News (3:5) Jimmy Kimmel | | | | |
| 5 | KING | (5) NBC Nightly News | KING 5 News | KING 5 News | Evening | Apocalypse "Home Sweet Home" (N) | Blindspot "Cease Forcing Enemy" (N) | Shades of Blue "Live Wire Act" (N) | KING 5 News (3:5) Tonight Show | | | | |
| 6 | KOIN | (6) KOIN 6 News at 6 | CBS Evening News | Extra | Ent. Tonight | Big Bang Theory "Life in Pieces" (N) | Mom (N) | 2 Broke Girls (N) | KOIN 6 News @ 11 (3:5) S.Colbert | | | | |
| 7 | KIRO | (7) KIRO 7 News | CBS Evening News | The Insider | Ent. Tonight | Big Bang Theory "Life in Pieces" (N) | Mom (N) | 2 Broke Girls (N) | KIRO News (3:5) S.Colbert | | | | |
| 8 | KGW | (8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. | | Live at Seven | Inside Edition | Apocalypse "Home Sweet Home" (N) | Blindspot "Cease Forcing Enemy" (N) | Shades of Blue "Live Wire Act" (N) | KGW News at 11 (3:5) Tonight Show | | | | |
| 9 | KOPB | (9) Burt Wolf Pt. 1 of 2 | Business (N) | PBS NewsHour | | Oregon Field Guide "Unprepared" (N) | Vera "Old Wounds" (N) | Masterpiece Classic "Downton Abbey: Season Six" | | | | | |
| 10 | KPTV | (10) 6 O'Clock News | | Family Feud | Family Feud | American Idol "Top 8 Perform" The top eight are revealed. (N) | | 10 O'Clock News | 11 O'Clock News | | | | |
| 11 | KPDx | (11) Mike & Molly | Mike & Molly | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV | FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV | The Mentalist "Flame Red" | The Mentalist "Red Brick and Ivy" | | | | |
| 12 | KCPQ | (12) Name Game | Modern Family | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | American Idol "Top 8 Perform" The top eight are revealed. (N) | | Q13 News at 10 | Q13 News | | | | |
| 13 | TBS | (13) Seinfeld | Seinfeld | Seinfeld | Seinfeld | 2 Broke Girls | 2 Broke Girls | 2 Broke Girls | 2 Broke Girls | | | | |
| 14 | KZJL | (14) Two and Half Men | Two and Half Men | The Simpsons | The Simpsons | Modern Family | Modern Family | Q13 News at 9 | Q13 News | | | | |
| 15 | ESPN | (15) NCAA Basketball (L) | | SportsCenter | SportsCenter | College Basketball SEC Storied | NFL Live | NBA Tonight | Jalen & Jacoby (N) | | | | |
| 16 | ESPN2 | (16) NCAA Basketball (L) | | Paradise Run | Paradise Run | College Basketball SEC Storied | NFL Live | NBA Tonight | Jalen & Jacoby (N) | | | | |
| 17 | NICK | (17) The Thundermans | The Thundermans | Henry Danger | Henry Danger | ★★ Zookeeper (2011, Comedy) Rosario Dawson, Leslie Bibb, Kevin James. | | Full House | Full House | | | | |
| 18 | DISN | (18) Bunk'd | Liv and Maddie | K.C. Undercover "Runaway Robot" | K.C. Undercover "Runaway Robot" | ★★ Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (11) Jessica Alba. (15) Stuck Middle | | Austin & Ally | Bunk'd | | | | |
| 19 | FAM | (19) ★★ Hocus Pocus (1993, Comedy) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy, Bette Midler. | | Project Runway: All Stars "Let It Flow" | Project Runway: All Stars "Let It Flow" | ★★ Dark Shadows (2012, Fantasy) Michelle Pfeiffer, Eve Green, Johnny Depp. | | Project Runway "Fashion 911" (N) | Project Runway "Fashion 911" | | | | |
| 20 | LIFE | (20) PRAS Social "What Makes an All Star?" | | Project Runway: All Stars "Let It Flow" | Project Runway: All Stars "Let It Flow" | PR All Stars Social (N) | | Project Runway "Fashion 911" (N) | Project Runway: All Stars "Fashion 911" | | | | |
| 21 | ROOT | (21) NCAA Basketball ACC Tournament | | NCAA Basketball ACC Tournament Women's Second Round | NCAA Basketball ACC Tournament Women's Second Round | NCAA Basketball Stanford vs. Arizona State (L) | | NCAA Basketball ACC Tournament Women's | NCAA Basketball ACC Tournament Women's | | | | |
| 22 | FST | (22) (4:30) FIFA Soccer SheBelieves Cup (L) | | Fox Sports Live With Jay and Dan | Fox Sports Live With Jay and Dan | NCAA Basketball Stanford vs. Arizona State (L) | | Fox Sports Live | TMZ Sports (N) | | | | |
| 23 | SPiKE | (23) (3:00) Bad Boys II | ★★ Gone in 60 Seconds (2000, Action) Angelina Jolie, Giovanni Ribisi, Nicolas Cage. | | | Lip Sync Battle | Lip Sync Battle | Lip Sync Battle | ★★ Gone in 60 Seconds (00) Angelina Jolie, Nicolas Cage. | | | | |
| 24 | COM | (24) (2:00) Futurama | (5:00) South Park | (2:25) South Park | (2:25) South Park | Tosh.0 | Tosh.0 | Workaholics (N) | Idiotsitter (N) | | | | |
| 25 | HIST | (25) Pawn Stars | Pawn Stars | Pawn Stars | Pawn Stars | Join or Die | Join or Die | Vikings "Kill the Queen" | Vikings "Mercy" (N) | | | | |
| 26 | A&E | (26) Beyond Scared Straight: Extreme Teens | Scared Str. | "Suffolk County, MA (Boys)" | Juvenile Lifers | Kids Behind Bars "Maximum Security" | Kids Behind Bars "Lost for Life" | Kids Behind Bars "Maximum Security" | Kids Behind Bars "Lost for Life" | | | | |
| 27 | TLC | (27) My 600-lb Life "Joe's Story" | My 600-lb Life "Bettie Jo's Story" | My 600-lb Life "Theretha's Story" (N) | Extreme Weight Loss "Ashley" Ashley carries around extra weight and lots of guilt. | Extreme Weight Loss "Ashley" Ashley carries around extra weight and lots of guilt. | | Fat Chance "Vanessa" | Fat Chance "Vanessa" | | | | |
| 28 | NGSC | (28) Gold Rush "Treasure Island" | Gold Rush "El Dorado Dream" | Gold Rush "Mammoth Channel" The Hoffman crew uncovers a unique sign of good gold. | Gold Rush "Mammoth Channel" The Hoffman crew uncovers a unique sign of good gold. | Gold Rush "Mammoth Channel" The Hoffman crew uncovers a unique sign of good gold. | | Gold Rush "Mammoth Gold" | Gold Rush "Mammoth Gold" | | | | |
| 29 | DISC | (29) Trooper "Alaska Chainsaw Massacre" | Alaska Troopers "In the Line of Duty" | Alaska Troopers "Carnival Chaos" Alaska State Troopers "Extreme Justice Countdown" | Alaska Troopers "Carnival Chaos" Alaska State Troopers "Extreme Justice Countdown" | Alaska State Troopers "Carnival Chaos" Alaska State Troopers "Extreme Justice Countdown" | | Trooper "Extreme Justice Countdown" | Trooper "Extreme Justice Countdown" | | | | |
| 30 | TNT | (30) (5:00) NBA Basketball San Antonio vs New Orleans (L) | NBA Basketball Oklahoma City Thunder at Golden State Warriors Site: The Oracle -- Oakland, Calif. (L) | Inside the NBA | Inside the NBA | Inside the NBA | | Inside the NBA | Inside the NBA | | | | |
| 31 | AMC | (31) (4:30) Rocky III (82) Sylvester Stallone. | ★★★ Rocky IV (1985, Drama) Talia Shire, Carl Weathers, Sylvester Stallone. | ★★★ The Green Mile (1999, Drama) David Morse, Bonnie Hunt, Tom Hanks. | ★★★ The Green Mile (1999, Drama) David Morse, Bonnie Hunt, Tom Hanks. | ★★★ The Green Mile (1999, Drama) David Morse, Bonnie Hunt, Tom Hanks. | | Law & Order: S.V.U. "Dreams Deferred" | Law & Order: S.V.U. "Dreams Deferred" | | | | |
| 32 | USA | (32) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Asunder" | Law & Order: S.V.U. "Taken" | WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries. | WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries. | Chopped "Viewers' Baskets" | Chopped "Cooking Caribbean" | Beat Flay (N) | Beat Bobby Flay | | | | |
| 33 | FOOD | (33) Chopped "Clever Fever" | Chopped "Chopped Chops" | Chopped "Viewers' Baskets" | Chopped "Cooking Caribbean" | Chopped "Viewers' Baskets" | Chopped "Cooking Caribbean" | House Hunters | House Hunters (N) | | | | |
| 34 | HGTV | (34) Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop | House Hunters | House Hunters (N) | | | | |
| 35 | FX | (35) (5:30) ★★ Hancock (2008, Action) Charlize Theron, Will Smith. | ★★ Identity Thief (2013, Comedy) Melissa McCarthy, Amanda Peet, Jason Bateman. | Anderson Cooper 360 "Post Debate Special" (L) | Anderson Cooper 360 "Post Debate Special" (L) | Anderson Cooper 360 "Post Debate Special" (L) | | Baskets (N) | Baskets | | | | |
| 36 | CNN | (36) Anthony Bourdain "Detroit" | Anthony Bourdain "Charleston" | Anderson Cooper 360 "Post Debate Special" (L) | Anderson Cooper 360 "Post Debate Special" (L) | Anderson Cooper 360 "Post Debate Special" (L) | | CNN Newsroom | CNN Newsroom | | | | |
| 37 | FNC | (37) The Kelly File with Megyn Kelly | Hannity | The O'Reilly Factor | The O'Reilly Factor | The Kelly File with Megyn Kelly | | Hannity | On the Record | | | | |
| 38 | CNBC | (38) American Greed: Scam "The Cash King" | Amer. Greed "Friends Without Benefits" | American Greed "The Dirtiest Con" | American Greed "The Dirtiest Con" | American Greed: Scam | | American Greed: Scam | Paid Program | | | | |
| 39 | BRV | (39) Top Chef "Finale" Pt. 2 of 2 | Top Chef "Hammer Time" | Top Chef "Wok This Way" | Top Chef "Wok This Way" | Top Chef (N) | | (15) Deception "Sweet Deceit" (N) | (15) WatchWhat (N) (4:45) Top Chef | | | | |
| 40 | TCM | (40) Movie | ★★★★ Black Narcissus (1947, Drama) Jean Simmons, David Farrar, Deborah Kerr. | ★★★ Design For Living (1933) Gary Cooper, Fredric March. | ★★★ Design For Living (1933) Gary Cooper, Fredric March. | ★★★ Design For Living (1933) Gary Cooper, Fredric March. | | (15) ★★ Outlaw (2007, Action) Danny Dyer, Rupert Friend, Sean Bean. | (15) ★★ Outlaw (2007, Action) Danny Dyer, Rupert Friend, Sean Bean. | | | | |
| 41 | SYFY | (41) (5:00) Final Destination 2 (03) Ali Larter. | ★★★ Men in Black (1997, Sci-Fi) Tommy Lee Jones, Vincent D Onofrio, Will Smith. | ★★★ Men in Black II (2002, Sci-Fi) Tommy Lee Jones, Lara Flynn Boyle, Will Smith. | ★★★ Men in Black II (2002, Sci-Fi) Tommy Lee Jones, Lara Flynn Boyle, Will Smith. | ★★★ Men in Black II (2002, Sci-Fi) Tommy Lee Jones, Lara Flynn Boyle, Will Smith. | | Men in Black (1997, Sci-Fi) Will Smith. | Men in Black (1997, Sci-Fi) Will Smith. | | | | |
| 42 | RFD | (42) SF Machinery Show/Small Town | Rural America "Tarter Farm and Ranch" | Steve Lantvit | Rural Eve. News | Market Journal | GA Farm Monitor | SF Machinery Show/Small Town | Time Life Library | | | | |

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