People trained in medicine, not accountants should make life and death medical decisions. Every patient should know their doctor is free to give his or her best advice and decide the best course of treatment, without restriction from the insurance company.

Every patient should know that specialty care is available if needed.

Citizens should know when they go to the emergency room, that their insurance will pay instead of haggling over the bill and denying payment afterwards. The last thing someone needs while rushing a sick child to the emergency room is a gnawing worry about payment.

Women should be able to visit their OB/Gyn without going through a gatekeeper.

People with longterm illnesses also should be able to see their specialists without getting a referral every time. People pay premiums to get health care, not a runaround.

Some people say this is radical socialized medicine, but I think people see through that. This argument is an old red herring and it is starting to smell.

What we are talking about with this Patients Bill of Rights is just the health care we always thought we had, but now it is being taken away. I have spent decades pushing medical research and building the medical research base in South Carolina. I was trying to build expertise in life-saving treatments in my home state so my constituents could be cared for, not so they could be denied and sent somewhere else on a day's notice.●

BEST WISHES TO DR. DAVID A. SPENCER

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Dr. David A. Spencer, President and CEO of Walsh College, on his new appointment as president of the newly formed Michigan Virtual University.

Dr. Spencer has brought new ideas, enthusiasm, and a love for innovative learning to Walsh College. His vision of the future of Walsh College had no limits. And while he helped make Walsh College a world-class business institution, he made sure to showcase the brilliance and innovation of the students and faculty. This is a man who is not only creative and thoughtful, but willing to share credit that he deserves with many, many others.

I, personally, will hate to see David leave Walsh College. He has been an invaluable partner to me and my office in our efforts to reach out to and learn more about the Michigan business community. We worked hand-in-hand on an annual small business conference through which I have gathered extremely valuable information about the needs of the business community. On many occasions, I have been able to use the information I gathered at these conferences as examples during legislative debates. These conferences have also helped illustrate to me the most important legislative priorities of the business community. David Spencer was invaluable in putting together these innovative, informative conferences.

David is one of those people who believes anything is possible through technology. I am confident that he is the right person to lead the Michigan Virtual University. Walsh College will surely miss him. My staff and I will miss having him here, but I am hopeful that his new position as president of the Michigan Virtual University we will have many new opportunities to work together.

I wish Dr. David Spencer much continued success.●

CONCERN OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQ

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today, along with Senators MCCAIN, LIEBERMAN, HUTCHISON and twenty-three other Senators, I am sending a letter to the President to express our concern over Iraq's actions and urging the President ''after consulting with Congress, and consistent with the U.S. Constitution and laws, to take necessary actions (including, if appropriate, air and missile strikes on suspect Iraqi sites) to respond effectively to the threat posed by Iraq's refusal to end its weapons of mass destruction programs.''

At the outset, I believe it would be useful to review the events that led up to the requirement for the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs. At the time that Iraq unlawfully invaded and occupied its neighbor Kuwait, the UN Security Council imposed economic and weapons sanctions on Iraq.

After Iraqi forces had been ousted from Kuwait by the U.S.-led coalition and active hostilities had ended, but while coalition forces were still occupying Iraqi territory, the UN Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, conducted a review of Iraq's history with weapons of mass destruction and made a number of decisions in April 1991 to achieve its goals, including a formal cease fire.

With respect to Iraq's history, the Security Council noted Iraq's threat during the Gulf War to use chemical weapons in violation of its treaty obligations, Iraq's prior use of chemical weapons, Iraq's use of ballistic missiles in unprovoked attacks, and reports that Iraq attempted to acquire materials for a nuclear weapons program contrary to its treaty obligations.

After reviewing Iraq's history, the Security Council decided that ''Iraq shall unconditionally accept the destruction, removal, or rendering harmless, under international supervision'' of its weapons of mass destruction programs and all ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometers and conditioned the lifting of the economic and weapons sanctions on Iraq's meeting its obligations, including those relating to its weapons of mass destruction programs.

To implement those decisions, the Security Council authorized the formation of a Special Commission, which has come to be known as UNSCOM, to ''carry out immediate on-site inspection of Iraq's biological, chemical and missile capabilities, based on Iraq's declarations and the designation of any additional locations by the Special Commission itself'' and requested the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to carry out similar responsibilities for Iraq's nuclear program. Additionally, the UN Security Council decided that Iraq shall unconditionally undertake not to use, develop, construct or acquire weapons of mass destruction and called for UNSCOM to conduct ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance. The detailed modalities for these actions were agreed upon by an exchange of letters in May 1991 that were signed by the UN Secretary General, the Executive Chairman of UNSCOM and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq.

Thus, Iraq unconditionally accepted the UN Security Council's demands and thereby achieved a formal cease-fire and the withdrawal of coalition forces from its territory.

Mr. President, UNSCOM has sought to carry out its responsibilities in as expeditious and effective way as possible. UNSCOM Executive Chairman Richard Butler and his teams, however, have been confronted with Iraqi obstacles, lack of cooperation and lies. As UNSCOM has noted in its own document entitled ''UNSCOM Main Achievements'': ''UNSCOM has uncovered significant undeclared proscribed weapons programmes, destroyed elements of those programmes so far identified, including equipment, facilities and materials, and has been attempting to map out and verify the full extent of these programmes in the face of serious efforts to deceive and conceal. UNSCOM also continues to try to verify Iraq's illegal unilateral destruction activities. The investigation of such undeclared activities is crucial to the verification of Iraq's declarations on its proscribed weapons programmes.''

Mr. President, I will not dwell on the numerous instances of Iraq's failure to comply with its obligations. I would note, however, that in accepting the February 23, 1998 Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by the UN Secretary General and Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister, that ended Iraq's prior refusal to allow UNSCOM and the IAEA to perform their missions, the UN Security Council warned Iraq that it will face the ''severest consequences'' if it fails to adhere to the commitments it reaffirmed in the MOU. Suffice it to say that on August 5, 1998, Iraq declared that it was suspending all cooperation with UNSCOM and the IAEA, except some limited monitoring activities.

In response, on September 9, 1998, a unanimous UN Security Council condemned Iraq's action and suspended its sanctions' reviews until UNSCOM and the IAEA report that they are satisfied that they have been able to exercise their full range of activities. Within the last week, Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister refused to rescind Iraq's decision. Throughout this process and despite the unanimity in the UN Security Council, Iraq has depicted the United States and Britain as preventing UNSCOM and the IAEA from certifying Iraqi compliance with its obligations.

To review, Iraq unlawfully invaded and occupied Kuwait, it's armed forces were ejected from Kuwait by the U.S.-led coalition forces, active hostilities ceased, and the UN Security Council demanded and Iraq accepted, as a condition of a cease-fire, that its weapons of mass destruction programs be destroyed and that such destruction be accomplished under international supervision and permanent monitoring, and that economic and weapons sanctions remain in effect until those conditions are satisfied.

Mr. President, by invading Kuwait, Iraq threatened international peace and security in the Persian Gulf region. By its failure to comply with the conditions it accepted as the international community's requirements for a cease-fire, Iraq continues to threaten international peace and security. By its refusal to abandon its quest for weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, Iraq is directly defying and challenging the international community and directly violating the terms of the cease fire between itself and the United States-led coalition.

Mr. President, it is vitally important for the international community to respond effectively to the threat posed by Iraq's refusal to allow UNSCOM and the IAEA to carry out their missions. To date, the response has been to suspend sanctions' reviews and to seek to reverse Iraq's decision through diplomacy.

Mr. President, as UN Secretary General Kofi Annan noted when he successfully negotiated the memorandum of agreement with Saddam Hussein in February, ''You can do a lot with diplomacy, but of course you can do a lot more with diplomacy backed up by fairness and force.'' It is my sincere hope that Saddam Hussein, when faced with the credible threat of the use of force, will comply with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. But, I believe that we must carefully consider other actions, including, if necessary, the use of force to destroy suspect sites if compliance is not achieved.

Mr. President, the Iraqi people are suffering because of Saddam Hussein's noncompliance. The United States has no quarrel with the Iraqi people. It is most unfortunate that they have been subjected to economic sanctions for more than seven years. If Saddam Hussein had cooperated with UNSCOM and the IAEA from the start and had met the other requirements of the UN Security Council resolutions, including the accounting for more than 600 Kuwaitis and third-country nationals who disappeared at the hands of Iraqi authorities during the occupation of Kuwait, those sanctions could have been lifted a number of years ago. I support the UN's oil-for-food program and regret that Saddam Hussein took more than five years to accept it. In the final analysis, as the Foreign Ministers of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, comprising the Gulf Cooperation Council stated at the time of the February crisis: ''responsibility for the result of this crisis falls on the Iraqi regime itself.''

I ask that the letter to the President be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, October 9, 1998.

THE PRESIDENT,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to express our concern over recent developments in Iraq.

Last February, the Senate was working on a resolution supporting military action if diplomacy did not succeed in convincing Saddam Hussein to comply with the United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the disclosure and destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. This effort was discontinued when the Iraqi government reaffirmed its acceptance of all relevant Security Council resolutions and reiterated its willingness to cooperate with the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by its Deputy Prime Minister and the United Nations Secretary General.

Despite a brief interval of cooperation, however, Saddam Hussein has failed to live up to his commitments. On August 5, Iraq suspended all cooperation with UNSCOM and the IAEA, except some limited monitoring activity.

As UNSCOM Executive Chairman Richard Butler told us in a briefing for all Senators in March, the fundamental historic reality is that Iraq has consistently sought to limit, mitigate, reduce and, in some cases, defeat the Security Council's resolutions by a variety of devices.

We were gratified by the Security Council's action in unanimously passing Resolution 1194 on September 9. By condemning Iraq's decision to suspend cooperation with UNSCOM and the IAEA, by demanding that Iraq rescind that decision and cooperate fully with UNSCOM and the IAEA, by deciding not to conduct the sanctions' review scheduled for October 1998 and not to conduct any future such reviews until UNSCOM and the IAEA, report that they are satisfied that they have been able to exercise the full range of activities provided for in their mandates, and by acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has sent an unambiguous message to Saddam Hussein.

We are skeptical, however, that Saddam Hussein will take heed of this message even though it is from a unanimous Security Council. Moreover, we are deeply concerned that without the intrusive inspections and monitoring by UNSCOM and the IAEA, Iraq will be able, over time, to reconstitute its weapons of mass destruction programs.

In light of these developments, we urge you, after consulting with Congress, and consistent with the U.S. Constitution and laws, to take necessary actions (including, if appropriate, air and missile strikes on suspect Iraq sites) to respond effectively to the threat posed by Iraq's refusal to end its weapons of mass destruction programs.

Sincrely,

Carl Levin, Joe Lieberman, Frank R. Lautenberg, Dick Lugar, Kit Bond, Jon Kyl, Chris Dodd, John McCain, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Alfonse D'Amato, Bob Kerrey, Pete V. Domenici, Dianne Feinstein, Barbara A. Mikulski.

Thomas Daschle, John Breaux, Tim Johnson, Daniel K. Inouye, Arlen Specter, James Inhofe, Strom Thurmond, Mary L. Landrieu, Wendell Ford, John F. Kerry, Chuck Grassley, Jesse Helms, Rick Santorum.●

TRIBUTE TO NORTEL NETWORKS

● Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate one of North Carolina's good corporate citizens for receiving two prestigious international awards this week. Nortel Networks is a global supplier of telecom and data networking solutions and has been an employer in North Carolina since 1974. They employ over 9,000 people in the Raleigh-Durham area, over 32,000 employees across the United States and approximately 80,000 people in over 150 countries. Over 40 percent of Nortel Networks' worldwide revenues are generated from their facilities in Raleigh-Durham.

Nortel Networks' CEO John Roth received ''The Emerging Markets CEO of the Year Award,'' which acknowledges companies whose expansion into emerging markets has contributed significantly to the corporation and has benefitted the countries involved. This award was presented at a special event during the IMF/World Bank annual meeting this week in Washington.

Nortel Networks was also recognized this week as ''The World's Most Global Company'' in the electricals sector, by the editors of Global Finance, a magazine known for its reporting of world financial matters. Other companies who have received this award in the past include IBM, Citibank, Reuters, and Avon.

These awards are well deserved. A country's communications structures, capabilities and services—its ''infostructure''—is directly linked to its standard of living. The network technologies Nortel Networks has brought to emerging markets has helped improve the standard of living for the citizens of these countries, providing them a much faster ascent into the 21st Century. Advanced network technologies promise greater opportunities to improve their education and health care, as well as expand business and employment.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating this world leader which also happens to be a stellar North Carolina corporation.●