

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO CAL ANDERSON

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, this morning I was shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden and tragic death of a very good friend and long-time colleague of mine, State Senator Cal Anderson.

Cal passed away last night of a disease that is touching far too many lives. Cal announced that he had been stricken with HIV/AIDS just a short time ago. Cal faced AIDS as he faced every legislative battle we fought together: With courage, with integrity, and with honor. Even though Cal was seriously ill these past months, he continued to do his job for his constituents the best he could, fighting hard for the things he believed in. He worked hard to the end, representing his constituents to the best of his ability.

I worked very closely with Cal during my time in the Washington State Senate. He has been known throughout our State as an outstanding legislator. He worked hard, he stayed true to his beliefs, and he had a unique ability to find solutions. I worked with him on an open government committee on which we took steps to make the legislative process more accessible. Cal made sure our bill was not only workable but a big improvement in peoples' ability to participate in government.

Cal was a Vietnam combat veteran. He won two Bronze Stars and two Army commendations for meritorious service. He was courageous and he was honest. He served his country, as well as his constituents.

Perhaps most importantly, Cal was a passionate advocate for human rights and dignity. Just last month, a home in Seattle was dedicated in his name. The Cal Anderson House is a 24-unit facility that will provide housing, counseling, and other services to low-income families with HIV/AIDS.

A month ago, I visited Cal in his hospital room. As usual, he spoke not about himself but what I needed to do. Cal told me, if nothing else, I needed to do as much as I could as a U.S. Senator to ensure that people with serious diseases did not have to fight with their insurance companies for health care at the same time they had to fight the disease for their lives. Cal said he, himself, had excellent coverage as an elected official, but those around him suffered through insensitive insurance companies. He felt that dignity was and is being taken away from seriously ill Americans, and that did not reflect the America he knew and loved.

So, today, I rise to simply say goodbye to Cal, to thank him for his years

of service to his country and his State, and to say: Cal, your battle is over, but our battle continues, to defeat AIDS so that it will stop taking lives from far too many young Americans.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—AMENDMENT NO. 2153

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a vote occur on or in relation to the Nickles amendment No. 2153 at 2:30 p.m. today, and that the time between now and the vote be equally divided in the usual form, and that no amendments be in order during the pendency of the Nickles amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, for the information of our colleagues, what we have just agreed to is that we will have a vote on or in relation to the Nickles amendment soon, which several of our colleagues have requested, which deals with prohibiting funds for the use of abortion in Federal employees' health care plans unless it is necessary to save the life of a mother, and in the case of rape or incest.

I hope we can vote much sooner. We have an hour and 10 minutes, equally divided. This Senator will be happy to yield back a significant amount of time. A lot of people would like to do something else on Saturday afternoon. It happens to be a very important vote. I think everybody knows how they are going to vote.

I ask my colleagues to speak briefly, and maybe we can yield back time and actually vote prior to 2:30.

I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Does the Senator from Oklahoma wish to comment on his amendment or on why he felt it met a compelling human need?

Mr. NICKLES. To respond, I have spoken more on the floor than I ever cared to on this particular Saturday. I think it is very well known what this amendment is. It is Hyde language. It says we are not going to use Federal funds to subsidize abortions for Federal employees unless it is necessary to save the life of the mother, or in the case of rape and incest. It is pretty self-explanatory.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). Under the previous agreement,

the time is controlled by the Senator from Oklahoma and the Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. KERREY. I ask unanimous consent that the time on our side be controlled by the Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Now, where we are on the Nickles amendment is that, essentially, this is yet another version of a restriction. We just defeated an amendment that was a restriction, and each side articulated that position, I think, in a very clear way.

I do not want any restrictions on Federal employees health benefits. Therefore, I oppose the Nickles amendment.

Under the legislation pending, the committee amendment, if someone is a victim of rape, they can have an abortion. If someone is a victim of the most horrendous assault on a person, incest, they can have an abortion. This is not about allowing rape or incest; this amendment limits it only to the life of the mother, rape, and incest.

So, we will be clear, this is not about being a knight in shining armor that says we will provide at least some flexibility in harsh, punitive, restrictive, and repressive legislation. No. The legislation that is pending before the Senate through the committee amendment has no restrictions on Federal health employee benefits. That is the current law.

Now, the issue is not what is decided. The issue is, who decides? I believe the U.S. Congress should not interject itself into the physician's office. I believe the Congress should stay out of that and focus on what it is supposed to be doing, which is broad policy objectives for the Nation. It is not to intervene, interject, detour, derail, or micromanage what goes on in a physician's office when a Federal employee or a dependent in a Federal employee's family seeks medical help. That is why we oppose it.

We did not want restrictions. We believe in doctors' autonomy, in doctors' judgment. That is why we say the issue is not what is decided, but who decides.

Now, we also believe that there is a war going on against American women; that there is a war going on in the home; that there is a war going on through the terrible violence of domestic violence. We believe there is a war against women in terms of street crime, particularly rape. We believe there is a war against women going on in the workplace through sexual harassment. That there is even a war against women going on in the U.S. Senate, and we cannot even get a public hearing on this.

We also believe that there should be no cutting of health care. What we see is that there is a war against women. It is not only about abortion and Federal employees; we are also cutting medically necessary services in other areas of health care.