

but that the point is to get the agreement between the House and the Senate. We will get that agreement between the House and the Senate, and will have better patient safety.

I hope our colleagues in the minority will agree to take 2 hours of their time to debate and vote on the bipartisan safety act. Two hours is not a lot of time. It is the least we can do on such an important piece of legislation. We have spent hour upon hour working on this bill in committee and crafting a bill that received unanimous bipartisan support. Let's spend 2 more hours on the Patient Safety Act so that we can improve the quality and safety of health care in America. I don't think that is too much to ask.

DEPARTURE OF REPRESENTATIVE C.J. (CHIEN-JEN) CHEN

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, a good friend of the Senate Taiwan caucus, Ambassador C.J. (Chien-Jen) Chen, will soon be leaving Washington, D.C., after having served for nearly 4 years here as Taiwan's principle representative. We are going to miss him very much. As chairman of the Taiwan caucus, I would like to bring special attention to his accomplishments for his country and his commitment to the advancement of freedom.

Ambassador Chen brought a wealth of experience to his job. He was first assigned to Washington, D.C. in 1971, and he spent most of his distinguished 37-year career promoting good relations between Taiwan and the United States. Over the years, he won many friends for himself and for his country. An eloquent speaker and polished diplomat, Ambassador Chen also has a reputation for being a "straight shooter." He was always prepared to provide an informed, balanced, and fair opinion on the complex relationship between Taiwan and the United States as well as the broad range of political, economic, cultural and other issues of common interest to our two countries.

Ambassador Chen's skill and determination as a representative of Taiwan have been made plain in many ways, but I want to mention one in particular. He has persistently pushed for Taiwan to have a role in international organizations. That is a real challenge, because Beijing opposes it at every turn, but Mr. Chen has pressed on. Owing in large part to his efforts, much progress has been made on these issues. During his most recent assignment in Washington, with U.S. support, Taiwan has acceded to the World Trade Organization and become our eighth largest trading partner. At the same time, Taiwan has also contributed greatly to U.S.-led international humanitarian efforts in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq, and it has cooperated with the United States in fighting proliferation, terrorism, and money laundering in Asia.

All these matters required intensive communication and coordination, and

we were lucky to have someone like C.J. Chen in place to lead the way. He understands that the people of Taiwan are as entitled to the blessings of liberty such as shared knowledge and the free exchange of information. Fighting for this freedom, he has had a special determination to secure Taiwan's entrance into the World Health Organization, an issue on which he and I have worked together. As the SARS virus swept Asia and frightened the entire globe, he seized the moral initiative to say the Taiwanese people are also vulnerable to this disease and that Taiwanese doctors also may heal. He clearly stated that they have a right to seek help and to give it, and that no petty, technical political agenda should stand in the way of that simple affirmation of humanity. When the doors to the WHO are thrown open for Taiwan, and they will be, people will remember with gratitude how C.J. Chen moved us toward that day.

One of the most notable and likable things about C.J. is his inexhaustible optimism. While the United States-Taiwan relationship has certainly experienced its fair share of twists and turns, ups and downs—as Mr. Chen will surely attest—he has always remained consistently upbeat. His confidence is contagious, and I agree wholeheartedly with his observation, that Taiwan and the United States—united by shared values and common interests—will continue to work closely together, not only for their mutual benefit but also for the sake of lasting peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific.

Now, after having served as his chief representative in the United States, as his country's foreign minister, as member of Taiwan's Legislative Yuan, and as a university professor, this man of extraordinary talent and vision is leaving Washington, DC. While he will be sorely missed, I am certain that he has established an admirable legacy of friendship, trust, and cooperation that will long endure.

WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President. Today I would like to recognize women in technology. While gender equity is not found on the agenda when discussing homeland security, it certainly is a key strategy for maintaining our Nation's preeminent status in science and technical innovation. The last 30 years have seen women make great strides in education and employment. Women are receiving more than 50 percent of the bachelor degrees conferred and are close to reaching parity in the once male-dominated fields, such as law. Unfortunately, these gains have not been uniform in all fields. Women continue to be persistently underrepresented in high-demand, high-wage science, technology, engineering and math, STEM, education and employment. While women make up 46 percent of the American labor force, they are less than 25 percent of the total science

and engineering workforce, and have not been able to break through a 10 percent ceiling in engineering.

At a time when we face a shortage of skilled STEM workers who are U.S. citizens, women provide an untapped national resource to fill the workforce pipeline. Recent studies from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Commerce confirm these conclusions, including the September 2000 Report of the Congressional Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology, which concludes that, "Unless the STEM labor market becomes more representative of the general U.S. workforce, the nation may likely face severe shortages in [STEM] workers and thus risks undermining its global competitiveness."

We are at a serendipitous time, when our Nation's economic and security imperatives are aligned with social justice. We must leverage this opportunity to build the requisite partnerships with stakeholders in government, academia, and industry to recruit, train, and retain women and underrepresented minorities in STEM fields. Not only is it a strategy that will ensure our global competitiveness and national security, but it is the right thing to do to ensure that all our citizens have equal access to the education and training needed to succeed.

In 1999, when I recognized that the jobs at the Maui High Performance Computer Center and other related research and development contract activities were being filled by males recruited from the mainland, I secured Department of Labor funding to launch the Women in Technology project designed to bring Hawaii's women into these emerging STEM fields. The island of Maui reflects the characteristics of many rural American communities: professional isolationism, limited access to higher education, overdependence on a single economic engine, and perceived limited career opportunities for its young people. These conditions uniquely position Maui to pilot workforce development programming that can be exported to other rural communities.

The Women in Technology, WIT, project is administered by the Maui Economic Development Board, a private nonprofit organization well respected for its leadership in helping to diversify the economy through high technology industry development. The board of directors, comprised of community leaders in industry, academia, business, and government gave the project access to key partners. Interviews, focus groups, and roundtable discussions helped establish the workforce challenges and skill sets needed to sustain industry growth projections. Workshops were designed to provide tools to educators and industry on how to overcome the barriers that had created the chilly climate for women. Buy-in was established that even though teachers and employers had no