

PET scan—unnecessary, totally unnecessary, but you do it because the likelihood is you are going to be sued. You do it to have that whole paper record there showing that you did the right thing. That is a cost. It is a huge cost, and it is a waste of money. It doesn't result in better patient care. It is a total waste.

Again, it gives me a sense of optimism because if you omit this waste—I would call it fraud—this abuse out of the system, everybody's cost of health care goes down.

It is estimated that the defensive medicine costs in this country are over \$100 billion. Wasted money. It is not Government money, it is your money. It is the American people's money. It is not even your tax dollars, it is how much you have to pay for that health care premium. That is why, if you are uninsured, you can't afford an insurance policy, because the cost of your insurance policy is too high.

Last month, I was in Texas, and again it is remarkable because medical liability reform is alive and well there, and it is working. I talked to patients, I talked to doctors, and I talked to nurses, and it is working. Since 2003, medical malpractice claims, following their reform, have dropped by at least 80 percent in most Texas counties. I talked just moments ago about physicians fleeing States because of medical liability, and since their reform was put in place, 3,000 doctors haven't fled that State but are coming back into that State today. We need to get on board with that reform movement.

When children who are dying of cancer can't get the lifesaving surgery they need, when a mother is forced to drive hundreds of miles to a doctor just to have her baby delivered, when doctors who have spent years training, years training and sacrificing to give people hope are having to leave the practice of medicine, it is time for us to act.

In a few moments, I will be filing cloture on the medical liability bill, and on Monday we will have those votes. I know a number of my colleagues will come by today and on Monday to explain the legislation as well as make the case of the importance of that legislation. I urge my colleagues, for the sake of all Americans and every citizen who is either walking into a doctor's office now or who will walk into a doctor's office in the future, that we vote to move forward on this bill.

I have seen firsthand that we have the best medicine in the world. The fact that I was able to do heart transplants with the technology on a routine basis, the fact that I was able to do lung transplants on a routine basis or to use that positron emission tomography to make a diagnosis on the metabolic processes of the heart or the brain today is truly astounding because it translates into better health care for all. We have the best doctors, we have the best medical schools, and we have the best hospitals in the world.

We have the best laboratories. We have the best universities and schools. I have been a beneficiary of that, and I have witnessed it. But we have a broken medical liability system, and it is bringing down that greatness. By pulling together, we are going to be able to deliver to the American people a system that works, and this will be a major step forward.

MEDICAL CARE ACCESS PROTECTION ACT OF 2006—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have been in discussions with the Democratic leader, and we have agreed to a plan for the next several days that I will outline now and I will place in order now with the next series of requests.

We have set aside next week to address several important bills relating to health care issues, but as I understand it, there will be objections to proceeding on these bills. Because there is objection to proceeding on the bills or bringing them forth and debating them and amending them, we have to go through a process to overcome that obstruction.

I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 422, S. 22, the Medical Care Access Protection Act of 2006, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the standing rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 22: A bill to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

Bill Frist, Johnny Isakson, Sam Brownback, John Thune, Thad Cochran, Wayne Allard, John Ensign, Pat Roberts, Larry Craig, Ted Stevens, David Vitter, John McCain, Lamar Alexander, Norm Coleman, Judd Gregg, John Sununu, Craig Thomas.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

HEALTHY MOTHERS AND HEALTHY BABIES ACCESS TO CARE ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 423, S. 23, the Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access to Care Act, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

standing rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 23: A bill to improve women's access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the delivery of obstetrical and gynecological services.

Bill Frist, Johnny Isakson, Sam Brownback, John Thune, Thad Cochran, Wayne Allard, John Ensign, Pat Roberts, Larry Craig, Ted Stevens, David Vitter, John McCain, Lamar Alexander, Norm Coleman, Judd Gregg, John Sununu, Craig Thomas.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the vote on the first motion to invoke cloture occur at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, May 8; provided further that if cloture is not invoked on that motion, then the Senate proceed immediately to a vote on the second cloture motion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE MODERNIZATION AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2006—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 417, S. 1955, the Small Business Health Plan bill, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the standing rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 417, S. 1955, Health Insurance Marketplace Modernization and Affordability Act of 2005.

Bill Frist, Johnny Isakson, Sam Brownback, John Thune, Thad Cochran, Wayne Allard, John Ensign, Richard Shelby, Larry Craig, Ted Stevens, John McCain, Lamar Alexander, Norm Coleman, Judd Gregg, Pat Roberts, Craig Thomas, Richard Burr.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I withdraw the motion to proceed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, May 8, the time for debate be divided as follows: 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., minority control; and 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., majority control. Further, that the time rotate under this format, with the final time from 5 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. under majority control. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the three live quorums related to the cloture motions be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, to summarize what we just went through and where we are, we have scheduled for next week the consideration of several important bills related to health care.