other people who need to be tried in military courts and who can’t be tried, for various reasons, in civil courts. That is going to be a part of the DOD authorization this year, which will make it difficult. We have to do that because we passed a law that was declared unconstitutional by the Federal courts. So we have to do that.

We also have to make a decision as to whether we are going to be able to do the Supreme Court nomination during the next work period or whether that will spill over until the next period, which would be September. I have spoken with the Republican leader about that, and he has indicated he is going to be communicating with me as to what he thinks should be done in more detail than our brief conversation yesterday.

So the reason I am talking about this today is to alert all Senators, as I have, as well as Senator MCCONNELL yesterday, that the next 5 weeks is going to be a unique work period in the Senate. Because of the makeup of the Senate changing over the years and it becoming a place where there is an obligation placed on us with their families, we haven’t been able to work the long weeks we have in the past. We have plenty of work to do. No one is complaining that we are not working hard enough, but sometimes you just have to put in the time because of the procedural obligations we have here, procedural rules we have to follow in the Senate.

So the next work period, which is July 5 through August 7, which is 5 weeks, there will only be one no-vote day, and that is July 16. The reason for that is as I have outlined. We are going to conduct business on Mondays and Fridays, and there will be rollcall votes on those days. That is the plan.

I had advised that the no-vote day is Friday, July 17, not July 16. So everything I have said other than that is valid. July 16 is a Thursday.

For example, health care—we cannot complete that most important legislation by working just Tuesday through Thursday.

I had a chairmen’s meeting yesterday. We meet every other week with all of the chairmen. It was clear from conversations I had with all of our chairmen that we are going to have to have a very long, hard work period in July. If there are questions anyone has or special circumstances, they can contact me, the Republican leader or me, and we will be happy to take a look, but everyone is on notice that is where we are. So with respect to your scheduling on Mondays and Fridays, be very careful because we are not going to be able to come in here on Mondays at 5:30. We are going to have to have regular workdays.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask my friend before he leaves the floor, what was the no-vote day in the July work period?

Mr. REID. July 17.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The 17th. I thank the leader.
bureaucracy that denies, delays, and ration health care is not the reform they want. They don’t want the people who brought us the Department of Motor Vehicles making life-and-death decisions for them, their children, their spouses, and their parents. They don’t want the system to look like Bruce Hardy or Shona Holmes.

GUANTANAMO BAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on a very timely subject, we understand that discussions are underway on the conference report on the supplemental. I think it is important to remind everybody in the House and in the Senate that, just a few weeks ago, the Senate answered the question that has concerned Americans and that is this: whether the terrorist detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, should be transferred stateside to facilities that could be in or near their communities. By a vote of 90 to 6, the Senate said: No way, not without a plan. It passed the bipartisan Inouye-Inhofe amendment that bars the administration from transferring these terrorist detainees into the United States—90 to 6.

This is not a change in the Senate’s position. Just a few years ago, the Senate, by a vote of 94 to 3, said the same thing: We should not move some of the world’s most dangerous terrorists out of Guantanamo Bay, modern, safe, and secure facility into our country.

The views of the Senate are abundantly clear. Nevertheless, it has been reported that congressional Democrats are privately considering the entrance of the White House to repudiate these very clear views and to allow terrorist detainees to come into the United States.

What has changed? What has changed in the last couple weeks?

The views of the American people have not changed. In fact, they are more firmly opposed to this now than they were 2 months ago. Nor have the dangers and difficulties of moving the detainees into the United States.

The other week, people said, they testified about the dangers of holding these terrorists in the United States. Most of us are familiar with the problems—Alexandria, VA, experienced with the trial of just one terrorist: security problems, transportation problems, logistical problems, commercial problems and on and on. Indeed, if you want to try these detainees by military commission—something I support—there is no better place than the $12 million modern courtroom right there at Guantanamo Bay.

The administration’s supporters point to Supermax as a place to house these terrorists. But our colleagues from Colorado don’t support moving them there, nor is there anyplace in the facility to put them.

The Denver Post reports there is just one bed open at Supermax—just one. That means these terrorists would have to come somewhere else, perhaps to a facility in your State.

Why in the world would Senate Democrats be considering the idea of giving the administration millions of dollars for doing this, especially when we still don’t have a plan? According to the Democratic leadership, it is because keeping terrorists at Guantanamo is a “problem politically” for the administration.

That is most curious. Assuming this is a political problem, with whom does the administration have it? It is not with the American people. They don’t want Guantanamo closed, and they certainly don’t want its inmates transferred here. It is not with our colleagues from Colorado. They don’t want these detainees transferred into their State any more than the rest of America does.

It seems like the administration’s “political problem” is a diplomatic one with the Europeans, who want the United States to accept some of these dangerous terrorists before they will. It is not in the interest of the United States to compromise our security to appease our European critics.

Similar to most Americans, I am for keeping Guantanamo open. It is safe and secure away from our civilian population. Perhaps I could be persuaded to change my mind if the administration comes up with a plan. They have time to do that and still receive funding to execute a plan through the regular order when we take up the 2010 appropriations bills in a few months.

But we should not rush to give the administration a blank check to do something, sight unseen, that Americans overwhelmingly oppose.

As Senate Democrats have often said, the Senate is not a rubber stamp. We should not flip-flop on our vote of a few weeks ago.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem. Under the previous order, there will be morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time to be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders, or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half.

The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I have given a lot of thought to this, and I appreciate what the leader said about health care. I am the only practicing physician in the Senate. We have one of our colleagues who is no longer practicing. But it struck me, as a physician, that what we should do in health care ought to be what is best for patients who are there to do. What is it they need—the very personal aspect of health care—would like to see?

There is no question we have big problems in health care. There is disease prevention in the insurance side with Medicare and Medicaid, and the lack of access. But what is it we should be talking about that will solve the insecurity problems, the problems, the concerns of the American people? I wish to go through with you a little list of items I think individuals in this country would agree with on how we ought to handle health care.

First, we ought to make sure health care is available to everybody in this country and that it is affordable. We now have a situation in the two leaders, or their designees, equally divided and controlled between dozens of years.

Another thing we know we need to get is a plan that will solve the insecurity problems, the concerns of the American people? I wish to go through with you a little list of items I think individuals in this country would agree with on how we ought to handle health care.

First, we ought to make sure health care is available to everybody in this country and that it is affordable. We now have a situation in the two leaders, or their designees, equally divided and controlled between dozens of years.