their doctors. But none of these claims is true.

The respected head of the Mayo Clinic recently described the health care antics we have witnessed as “mud” and “scare tactics.”

A well-regarded Washington Post writer with a quarter century of experience, married to a Bush administration official, noted about the House health care bill: “The appalling amount of misinformation being peddled by its opponents.” She called it a “flood of sheer factual misstatements about the health-care bill” and noted of the House Republicans that “[t]he falsehood-peddling began at the top.

Her ultimate question was this:

Are the Republican arguments against the bill so weak that they have to resort to these misrepresentations and distortions?

Where does this lead? The ill-informed, the gullible, those already on the razor’s edge of anger about the very election of this President may well be tipped by all this poisonous propaganda into actions we would all regret—I hope we would all regret. When do anger and frustration fomented in this debate begin to spill over into dangerous or violent acts? When does some havoc occur, such that we all look back with sorrow and wish we had better leashed our dogs of rhetoric?

When does some havoc occur, such that we all look back with sorrow and wish we had better leashed our dogs of rhetorical war? Where do we restore civility and reason to the health care system? If we can agree something must be done, it should not be difficult to debate our differences as to what must be done in a civil, thoughtful, and factual manner. Let the Senate be the place where we take a stand, rejecting the incivility and falsehood that has surrounded us on our public airwaves. Through history, that is what this Chamber, at its best, has always achieved and needs now to achieve again.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3590

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume the motion to proceed to H.R. 3590 at 10 a.m. under the debate limitations previously ordered.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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