

For those who say, well, we don't need to do anything about this health insurance problem, I would ask them to listen to Trisha Urban. She said at the end of her letter:

I am a working class American and do not have the money or the insight to legally fight the health insurance company. We had no life insurance. I will probably lose my home, my car, and everything we worked so hard to accumulate in our life will be gone in an instant.

But then she says this:

If my story is heard, if legislation can be changed to help other uninsured Americans in a similar situation, I am willing to pay the price of losing everything. I'm asking you to share my story with others in Congress and I'm willing to speak on behalf of my husband so that his death will not be in vain.

So says Trisha Urban in this letter. She challenged me with that letter, or at least I took it as a kind of challenge I wanted to accept. I think she challenges all of us. If Trisha Urban, who lived through all of those problems with the health insurance company, denied coverage because of preexisting condition, dropped coverage, medical bills going through the roof, and then the ultimate tragedy, the death of her husband, if she can endure all that and still stand up and say, I am willing to pay the price of losing everything I need, I am going to do that to try to help pass a health care bill—if she can do that, the least we can do is to do what a lot of us have tried to do over many months, which is to work on this, to debate it, and to fight hard to pass it. So tomorrow morning in the early hours of the morning, when it might still be dark out, it is my hope and prayer there will be a little light in that darkness in the early morning tomorrow when we pass this bill, and we can say that we did our best.

I know we are not done yet to get this bill out of the Senate. I know we are not done yet. We can at least say we did our best, that we tried as best we could to be responsive to, to answer the plea for help and the invocation of hope that Trisha Urban has in her letter.

I have remained ever inspired by her courage, by her willingness to speak up, and by her willingness to be a witness not just to what has been going wrong with our system and not just giving testimony about her husband's death but the way Trisha Urban has been a witness to the hope and the promise of change that will come with this bill. I know tomorrow morning isn't the end of the road. But tomorrow morning is at least the beginning of the end of a lot of these tragedies and a lot of these stories.

So on Trisha's behalf as we say on behalf of so many others, we need to get this legislation passed tomorrow morning and to move forward in a positive new direction in terms of what happens to our health care system.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

NATIVE AMERICAN APOLOGY

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I wish today to discuss the Native American apology resolution that was recently passed as part of the fiscal year 2010 Defense appropriations bill.

I believe that it is well known to most Members of this body that the original inhabitants of the lands that now constitute the United States, the aboriginal, indigenous, native people of America, occupied and exercised sovereignty over more than 550 million acres of land prior to the first European contact.

In the early days of our history, well before our Nation was formed, the native people fought alongside our soldiers in the Revolutionary War. The Indian tribes enabled the survival of General George Washington and his troops during the harsh winter at Valley Forge by providing food to the troops.

A few years later, as our Founding Fathers were engaged in the challenge of forming a new nation, they drew upon the democratic model of government that they learned from the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. There they found the well-institutionalized practice of the fundamental principles of freedom of speech and a system of governmental checks and balances provided through the separation of governmental powers.

In our early days as a nation, we entered into treaties with Native Americans pursuant to the provisions of the U.S. Constitution that recognize them as sovereigns. But later, we abandoned the path of an honorable course of dealings, and turned to war. Thousands lost their lives through these battles and horrific massacres. The native population everywhere was decimated.

Forced marches to relocate the native people from their traditional homelands to areas west of the Mississippi in the dead of winter cost thousands of more lives. Few Americans know that there was not one Trail of Tears—but many.

The treaties could have signaled a return to a course of honorable dealings with the native people had the United States not proceeded to break provisions in every single one of the treaties

that were ratified by the United States Senate.

Amazingly, notwithstanding these appalling deeds, the native people of the United States have always been and continue to be staunchly patriotic and loyal to this country. They have volunteered to serve in the defense of our Nation in every military action and war in which we have been engaged and on a per capita basis, more Native Americans have put themselves in harm's way and given their lives to protect the United States than any other ethnic group of Americans. They have made the greatest sacrifice, but their contributions do not end there.

We know that the native people of the United States have made significant contributions to our society in every walk of life, in every profession, in medicine and agriculture and as stewards of the lands and resources we all hold dear. There have been great men and women who have led their native nations out of war, poverty, and despair. Throughout the generations, they have shown us the true meaning of courage in the face of the greatest odds, and the quiet strength to persevere.

This provision signifies a new day, brings a message of hope, and provides a foundation for the future.

Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator BROWNBACK for his leadership on this measure.

LEGISLATIVE WORK OF COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this has been an extraordinary year in the history of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Thanks to the members and their work through 87 hearings and 33 business meetings this year we have been productive. Here are some of the legislative highlights:

We have considered and reported to the Senate several important legislative initiatives: We successfully considered and reported to the Senate the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act that President Obama signed into law in May. We reported the important Patent Reform Act, which can help our economic recovery and lead to additional American jobs. We reported significant cyber security legislation, including the Personal Data Privacy and Security Act.

We also reported the Improving Assistance to Domestic Violence Victims Act; Public Corruption Prosecution Improvements Act; the Crime Victims Fund Preservation Act; and the Performance Rights Act. We reported the Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act; the PACT Act on cigarette smuggling; and the Preserve Access to Affordable Generics Act, to end anticompetitive pay-for-delay schemes in the drug industry.

Mindful of the end of the year deadlines, we worked hard to report with bipartisan support the USA PATRIOT Act Sunset Extension Act and the Satellite Television Modernization Act.