

Thousands of people lost loved ones. Nothing could ever make up for the loss of a mother or father, son or daughter, brother or sister, friend, or a spouse who was just catching a plane, going to work, or at work on that horrific day. They are the reason we will never forget—ever.

So today, as yesterday, I honor the memory of the thousands of innocent people who died at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, on the hijacked planes in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. I honor the memory of the firefighters who knew the danger they faced when they entered those buildings but went in anyway. I honor the police and rescue workers who rushed to the scene and combed through the debris, some of whom died that day. I honor the many dedicated members of our Armed Forces, our State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and our intelligence community who have sacrificed their lives to keep us safe and keep September 11 from ever happening again.

Today, at approximately 6 o'clock, we will gather on the east front of the Capitol. In looking at the program, I see the final thing that will happen there is one of the military bands and choir will sing "God Bless America." That happened on September 11. Senator Daschle and I had come back, and we gathered on the front of the Capitol. We really were there not knowing what to do; we just wanted to be together. As I remember, Senator MIKULSKI said in her usual voice, which demands attention, "Let's sing 'God Bless America.'" And we did. I don't know how well we sang it, but it was a memorable event. So I will remember that very clearly tonight when we close our recognition ceremony out there on the east front of the Capitol singing "God Bless America"—something we did 10 years ago.

Mr. President, I honor America's spirit of perseverance and commitment to freedom. May we never forget.

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed for 15 minutes in morning business.

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

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1538 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MEDICAL DEVICE TAX

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, we all heard the President speak to a joint session of Congress last week about his jobs bill, which was released this morning. The President indicated he wanted to take his case to the people. I am glad he is doing so. As he travels about the country, I think he will be hearing what many of us heard during the August work period when we were back at home.

As I traveled across the State of Indiana and talked to people from all different categories of industry—small to medium to large businesses—homeowners and other constituents, one thing came through loudly and clearly: I needed to listen to them more than they needed to listen to me. What was on their minds is what I think the President will be hearing about as he travels across the country to talk about his jobs plan because, clearly, on the minds of the American people are jobs and the lack of jobs for many who are struggling through a very difficult time of unemployment. There are students who graduated from college with no place to go. People in middle age are being laid off or terminated, unable to find new work. Clearly, we have a jobs crisis in this country. It has lasted now for some time. We have been in a deep recession. Hopefully, we are coming out of it, but the latest indicators show that things are pretty stagnant. In fact, the latest facts that came forward in the August reports were that job growth is zero. So we have some work to do. We also need to look carefully at the proposal the President brought before us.

Getting back to the central point I am trying to make, what he will hear, I believe, from the American people—at least he will hear it if he stops in Indiana—is there is a great cloud of uncertainty hanging over the future and,

because of that, people are holding back on spending and businesses are holding back on hiring. There certainly is not the confidence we have seen in the past. We have seen that confidence indicator drop and drop and drop—confidence in the future that we have our act together, that we are pulling out of this recession, and that we can look forward to a brighter tomorrow because our economy will be growing and we will be adding more jobs. That uncertainty results from a number of factors. Clearly, we have been in a downturn, and we are trying to climb out of that, but there is also uncertainty about what policies will be coming out of Washington that will affect the job creators and will affect consumers as they contemplate decisions regarding how to go forward.

One of those key indicators is the uncertainty over what the Tax Code will bring regarding the taxing of profits or income or revenue that comes into America's companies. I wish to highlight one of those because it is important to the State of Indiana, but I think it also makes the larger point. There are industries that can be an essential part of our future and that can and are providing for essential employment, at higher than average wages with good skill levels, and that hold a lot of potential for our exporting successfully overseas as well as providing necessary products here at home.

One of those industries is centrally located in Indiana—in fact, it is one of our top industries and an industry with significant growth over the last decade or more; that industry is the medical device industry. Yet the medical device industry, because of its success, was targeted during the formation of the health care plan that was proposed by the President and passed by this Congress in the last session. That bill imposed a tax increase on the medical device industry, even though they did not have a direct relationship with what was trying to be accomplished in the ObamaCare medical plan. Here is an industry that is a world leader, where the United States is a world leader, an industry that brings in substantial revenue, has seen a significant increase in growth, and holds great potential for the future. Yet because there was a search for pay-fors for the health care plan, the administration looked at this industry and basically said: We can draw some taxes and provide some revenues. Their proposal was to achieve \$40 billion over a period of time, all of which would go to help pay for the health care plan. That was reduced through an amendment—or through negotiations—to \$20 billion. Nevertheless, it should have never been included in the first place. It was there for a revenue raiser, and it didn't have anything to do with the particular plan.

Indiana is one of the world leaders in the development of medical technologies that enhance and save the lives of Hoosiers and patients around the world. We have more than 300 FDA-