ought to be talking about. Unfortunately, what we are faced with now is that we find ourselves in a position where I think that we need would be more interested in creating issues than they are in finding solutions. We find the same issues being brought up time after time. For example, my friend again talked about gun control this morning. He talked about additional laws, when the facts is, clearly, what is really important is the enforcement of the laws that we have now.

In the Colorado incident, there were 22 laws broken. Do we need more laws? Probably not. What we need to do is to enforce them. The General Accounting Office did an audit of the effectiveness of the national instant criminal background check. As of September of 1999, the ATF headquarters staff had screened 50,000 denials, and found that only 22,000 had merit. Only 1 percent of those denials were ever pursued as to if the person trying to buy a gun was, in fact, legally allowed to. Clearly, that issue has been talked about here. It, basically, has been resolved.

We keep talking about the Patients' Bill of Rights. We passed it in both Houses. The question now is whether, when you need an appeal from your HMO, you go to the court or physicians in an appeal position, whether you want to take a year and a half to go to court, or whether you want an automatic and quick response from professionals in the medical profession who say: Yes, do it. That is where we are.

You hear in the media that the Senate defeated the Patients' Bill of Rights. That is not true. The Patients' Bill of Rights has been passed by this Congress in both Houses. We need now to put it together. Indeed, it is in conference.

We find ourselves debating education. We find ourselves having to pull away from the elementary and secondary education bill in which the Federal Government participates—not heavily. The Federal Government's role in funding elementary and secondary education is about 7 percent of the total expenditure. But the argument is whether the decisions are made in Washington as to how that 7 percent is used before it is sent down to the school district. It is already been resolved.

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Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I am sometimes reminded by children of Alice in Wonderland. She fell through the hole in the Earth and was lost, and she talked to people to try to get some directions. None of them were very useful. She finally came to the Cheshire cat who was sitting up in a tree at a fork in the road. She said: Mr. Cat, which road should I take?

He said: Where do you want to go?
She said: I don't know.
He said: Then it doesn't make any difference which road you take.

That is kind of where we are in some of the things we do. In any event, we are going to make some progress. I hope that we move forward and get our appropriations finished. I hope we can do something on national security. We need to have a system that works to decide what is it we want to accomplish, how we best accomplish that, and put it into place.