later it became law without his signature in Texas. What we are trying to do for the country says essentially the same thing as it is long overdue in the Senate. But now it is done. It is up to the House to do the same. I call on the President to join us. I urge the House to pass this bill, and then I urge the President to sign the bill. Let this bill work for the American people.

I know the Senator from Nevada, who attended a hearing with me that I referenced recently, cares a great deal about this issue. I know that at the hearing in the State of Nevada I heard exactly what I had heard at hearings I held in New York, Minnesota, and elsewhere. I held hearings as chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee on this issue. It didn’t matter where you were, you would hear the same story; that is, patients in this part of the country, and I think the nation, expect that kind of health treatment they were promised by their health care plan, when they get sick and need health care. Too often they discover that that kind of delivery of health care service is not available to them when they need it.

We have, as I indicated, a number of challenges facing us this year. This is but one. I think it is one of the most important challenges. I hope in the not-too-distant future the House of Representatives will take action, as the Senate has already done, and we will see a Patient Protection Act become law in this country.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have said before that the Senator from North Dakota has spent a great deal of time on the Patients’ Bill of Rights, developing a foundation so that the legislation could pass. It was Senator Edwards’ legislation, along with Senators Kennedy and McCain. But the real foundation for that legislation came as a result of the work that Senator Dorgan did around the country as the chair of the policy committee, holding hearings all over America. He mentioned Las Vegas. There was a dramatic hearing held in Las Vegas, with people complaining about how they had been mistreated or not treated. Not only did we have patients coming in, but physicians and health care professionals came in and telling us how they could not render care that they, in their expertise, training, and experience, indicated needed to be done, and their managed care entity would not let them do it. There are cases where a doctor has been pulled off the case because his recommendations for treatment were not what the HMO or the managed care entity wanted.

I have great respect and admiration for the Senator from North Dakota for helping us lay a foundation so that we could pass successful legislation. All eyes are now upon the House of Representatives, to make sure they pass legislation that is in keeping with what we did over here. They are trying to spin this, saying the legislation in the Senate is all about lawyers. The legislation that passed in the Senate of the United States had nothing to do with lawyers and everything to do with patients. Out of a bill that contains 100 percent substance, 2 percent dealt with lawyers and 98 percent dealt with patients.

I look forward to the bill passing in the House. Also, I have such great admiration and respect for Dr. Norwood, who has been willing to step beyond the pale. He has been willing to go beyond what most of the time happens in partisan politics. Congressman Norwood, a Republican, has said he can’t do what his leadership has asked him to do. I urge the President to sign the bill. Let this bill work for the American people. It is the right thing to do.

It is very interesting to me that as we look at all of the challenges we face in this country, we have had some great successes, and almost every step of the way we have had people who have said: Not me, help me out, this is the right thing to do.

I come from a town of 300 to 400 people. I spent most of my formative years there. Three or four people there were always cranky about things, and they said, “This won’t work.” or, “This will never do.” But the rest of the town was out doing things. They paved our Main Street while others said it could not be done. It got done because the builders and the doers decided to make it happen.

The same is true in the Senate. It doesn’t matter what the issue is, it doesn’t matter whether it is Social Security, workers rights, minimum wage, we have people in this body who have opposed everything for the first time, and it doesn’t matter what it is. Those who progressively want to make changes strengthen this country. It is our burden to say, here are our ideas, here is what we must do to strengthen our country.

We have done that. A Patient Protection Act is just one more step in a series of things that we know must be done to help the American people deal with a health care system that has increasingly moved toward managed care and has increasingly empowered the bigger interests and taken away from the American people and the individuals who need health care the opportunity to fight back. That is what the Patient Protection Act or Patients’ Bill of Rights is about.

Now we have passed that legislation. We have had good leadership in the Senate, and in the last couple of months we have passed legislation dealing with that Patients’ Bill of Rights and a number of other things that have been welcome in the Senate, but now it is done. It is up to the House to do the same. I call on the President to join us. I urge the House to pass this bill, and then I urge the President to sign the bill. Let this bill work for the American people.

Mr. Hatch. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Robert D. Foreman who has served as a health advisor to me for the past 8 years. Rob came to my staff after distinguished service in the House of Representatives, in the Executive Branch, and in a national trade association. I suppose that Rob’s experience staffing Medicaid and Medicare issues for me, and earlier for our colleagues on the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, now called the Energy and Commerce Committee, have prepared him well for his new assignment as Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. I am confident that he will be a great asset to Secretary Thompson, Administrator Scully, and the President as they work to preserve and strengthen Medicare, and confront the many challenges facing the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS.

Rob is able to grasp complex issues and use his keen sense of humor to bring together parties with differing views on pending legislation. With his research and command of the legislative process, he has helped us make significant contributions during the past eight years on many key pieces of legislation including the defeat of the Health Security Act and enactment of the Children’s Health Insurance Program, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, the Balanced Budget Act amendments and subsequent revisions, and the Skilled Nursing Facility legislation.

I also have been able to count on Rob to be a powerful advocate for the disabled, and the less fortunate, and to be
my liaison with my Disability Advisory Committee in Utah. He also has been a tireless advocate for Native Americans and has enhanced my work on the Committee on Indian Affairs.

For those who have been blessed to work with Rob, they understand that beneath the soft-spoken, dedicated work of this kind man is the caring heart of a true gentleman. He is a man you can genuinely trust, a man of his word, a man of integrity. He seeks not just to do his job, but to do it well. He came to his office each morning not to work, but to serve. His gentle nature is equalized only by his loyalty and work ethic.

I am grateful to Rob for his efforts, for his personal sacrifices, and for the many nights and weekends he spent ensuring that work on these vital issues was completed. I want to publicly thank him for all of his many contributions. I wish him the best as he confronts this new challenge.

RETIREE OF JESS ARAGON
Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to call to your attention the retirement of one of our country’s finest public servants. Jess Aragon, the Budget Officer of the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, is leaving after 33 years of Federal service. In his capacity as Budget Officer, he controlled the formulation, justification, and execution of some $10 billion of our taxpayers’ funds in a manner that set him apart for his professionalism and courtesy. He has personally assisted the Appropriations Committee time and time again, and has been especially helpful when the chips were down and information was desperately needed to make our bills and reports work together. A native of Albuquerque, NM, Jess’ career began with a four-year stint in the Air Force. Following this, he entered public service with the New Mexico State Employment Security Agency, after which he joined the Department of Labor. He and his wife, Myra, are retiring to San Juan, PR, and I, and the other members and staff of the Appropriations Committee, wish them all the best, and offer a heartfelt thanks for a career devoted to serving the American people.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001
Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The legislation I introduced with Senator I rise today to speak about hate crimes that occurred December 8, 1994 in Medford, OR. A man who said he thought their lifestyle was “sick” killed two prominent lesbian activists who had been domestic partners for many years.

I believe that government’s first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Environment and Public Works, adopted by the committee today, July 25, 2001, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, in accordance with the rules of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, adopted by the committee today, July 25, 2001, be printed in the RECORD.

RULE 1. COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN GENERAL
(a) Regular Meeting Days: For purposes of complying with paragraph 3 of Senate Rule XXVI, the regular meeting day of the committee is the first and third Thursday of each month at 10:00 A.M. If there is no business before the committee, the regular meeting shall be omitted.
(b) Additional Meetings: The chair may call additional meetings, after consulting with the ranking minority member. Subcommittees may call meetings, after consulting with the ranking minority members of the subcommittee and the committee.
(c) Presiding Chair:
(1) The chair shall preside at all meetings of the committee. If the chair is not present, the ranking minority member shall preside.
(2) The chair shall preside at all meetings of their subcommittees. If the subcommittee chair is not present, the ranking minority member of the subcommittee shall preside.
(3) Notwithstanding the rules prescribed by paragraphs (1) and (2), any member of the committee may preside at a hearing.
(d) Open Meetings: Meetings of the committee and subcommittees, including hearings and business meetings, are open to the public. A portion of a meeting may be closed to the public if the committee determines by a majority vote of its members that there is good cause to provide a shorter period, in which event the announcement and notice shall be issued at least twenty-four hours in advance of the hearing.
(e) Hearings: One member constitutes a quorum for conducting a hearing.

RULE 3. HEARING
(a) Announcements: Before the committee or a subcommittee holds a hearing, the chair of the committee or subcommittee shall make a public announcement and provide notice to members of the date, time, place, time, and subject matter of the hearing. The announcement and notice shall be issued at least one week in advance of the hearing, unless the chair of the committee or subcommittee determines that there is good cause to provide a shorter period, in which event the announcement and notice shall be issued at least twenty-four hours in advance of the hearing.
(b) Statements of Witnesses:
(1) Any witness planning to use at a hearing any exhibit such as a chart, graph, photo, map, slide, or model shall submit one identical copy of the exhibit (or representation of the exhibit in the case of a model) and 100 copies reduced to letter or legal size not less than 8 hours before the hearing.
(2) Any witness planning to use at a hearing any exhibit such as a chart, graph, diagram, photo, map, slide, or model shall submit one identical copy of the exhibit (or representation of the exhibit in the case of a model) and 100 copies reduced to letter or legal size not less than 8 hours before the hearing.
(3) Witness statements that are to be used at a hearing may be submitted to the committee and will not be included in the hearing record.

The presiding officer at a hearing may have a witness confine the oral presentation to a summary of the written testimony.

(b) Continuing Quorum: Once a quorum has been established, the committee or subcommittee may continue to conduct business, unless the chair of the committee or subcommittee determines that there is good cause to provide a shorter period, in which event the announcement and notice shall be issued at least twenty-four hours in advance of the hearing.
(c) Quorum:
(1) Any witness planning to use at a hearing any exhibit such as a chart, graph, diagram, photo, map, slide, or model shall submit one identical copy of the exhibit (or representation of the exhibit in the case of a model) and 100 copies reduced to letter or legal size not less than 8 hours before the hearing.
(2) Any witness planning to use at a hearing any exhibit such as a chart, graph, diagram, photo, map, slide, or model shall submit one identical copy of the exhibit (or representation of the exhibit in the case of a model) and 100 copies reduced to letter or legal size not less than 8 hours before the hearing.
(3) Witness statements that are to be used at a hearing may be submitted to the committee and will not be included in the hearing record.

The presiding officer at a hearing may have a witness confine the oral presentation to a summary of the written testimony.