June 29, 2001

Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there be a period for morning business until 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator Durbin, or his designee, from 12 to 12:30 p.m.; Senator Thomas, or his designee, 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.

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

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF S. 1052
Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, on Monday, July 9, the Senate will convene at 12 noon. We will convene at that time for a period for morning business until 1 p.m. At 1 p.m., the Senate will begin consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill under a previous order which calls for all listed amendments to be ordered on Monday prior to 6 p.m. There will be no rollover votes on Monday, July 9, and there will be no rollover votes before 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT
Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1052, as passed by the Senate, be printed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The distinguished senior Senator from Massachusetts.

PASSAGE OF THE BIPARTISAN PATIENT PROTECTION ACT
Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I want to take a brief moment to thank some very special people who were absolutely instrumental in bringing us to the point of the passage of the legislation which gives so much hope—and should give so much hope—to millions of American families who now are going to be treated by the doctors in whom they have confidence, by the health care staff from whom they are going to get true recommendations, and not have judgments and decisions overridden by their HMOs. We have not finished the job, but this is a giant step forward.

I want to, as others have done—I feel strongly about it —first thank some special Members of this body. We just heard our leader, Senator Daschle. I can remember when Senator Daschle was asked after he assumed the leadership role in this body, what was going to be his first priority, and he mentioned the Patients’ Bill of Rights. For 5 years—for 5 years—we have waited for this moment this evening. For 5 years we have waited for the moment that he has assumed the leadership of the Senate, in a closely divided Senate, he has been able to develop the broad support evidenced in vote after vote, bipartisan in such important public policy areas.

I thank my good friend, John Edwards, whose leadership at critical times during this debate and during very important moments was absolutely indispensable and essential. He was extremely effective in his quiet and somewhat withdrawn steeliness and a strength that is reflected in his great passion on so many of the issues which are in his soul. He has made an enormous difference in making sure we reached this point tonight.

I thank my friend, Senator McCain, as he has said many times, traveled this country as a Presidential candidate and saw the importance of this legislation. He came back and wanted to know how he could play a role in making sure it came to fruition. He was willing, as he has on so many issues, to take on tough challenges and stay the course, but he has been an absolutely extraordinary leader on this issue, as on many others. It has been a great pleasure to work with him closely on this matter.

As has been mentioned, John Edwards has provided extraordinary leadership on this issue. He was indispensable in so many different aspects of the development of the legislation, likely all of which deal with accountability. We know the importance of the relationship between accountability and patient protections in this bill. He was always a steady force, a strong force, a tireless voice for patients and has made an extraordinary mark on this legislation for which we are grateful. This has been a historic team, and I am grateful for them.

I have great appreciation for Harry Reid. I listened to the other evening when my good friend, Senator Byrd, mentioned that he had been a deputy leader. He said Senator Reid was really one of the best. Having been a deputy leader myself many years ago, it truly can be said he is the best I have seen in all the time I have been in the Senate. He is a tireless worker and always there to find common ground.

He has this incredible ability to say no and make you feel good, which is very difficult but challenging at best for any Senator, and he does it on a regular basis, repeatedly, and still Members of this body know he is a selfless devotee to this institution and to the issues in which he is involved. He has made such an extraordinary difference in this legislation as well.

I thank my good friend, Senator Byrd, my good friend, Senator Snowe, and Senator Lautenberg, whose leadership at critical times in the passage of this legislation as well. Senator Snowe and Senator Lautenberg have been the chairman of our Public Health Subcommittee and with whom I have worked on many different issues. We differed on this issue, but we worked closely on many other issues. I have great respect for him.

I thank Judd Gregg who has been a worthy adversary as well as an ally on different public policy issues this year. I enjoy working with him.

Some Senators I had not expected to be as involved as they have been and yet were enormously helpful are Senators Nelson, Senator Lautenberg, Senator Lincoln, and Senator Bayh. Senator Jeffords spent a lot of time on this issue previously and worked with us and knows the issue carefully.

I have listened to him in small meetings, including at the White House with the President, explaining the importance of this legislation enormously effectively as he does. He has been a wonderful help generally. We didn’t always agree on some of these issues, but nonetheless I value both his friendship and his views.

Senator Breaux has been a very strong champion on the Patients’ Bill of Rights from the beginning. He has been there every time we needed a strong voice. He knows this issue. He speaks passionately about it. He understands the significance and the importance not only in the areas of disability protections and health standards and medical necessity, but he also understands the nuances and the standards which were used and how that impacts broad numbers of our populations. He was absolutely invaluable throughout this process.

I thank particularly the staff members. These issues are complex. It is