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.

PROGRAM
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 offered 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 PRINTING OF S. 1052
Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1052, as passed by the Senate, be printed.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT
Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 176, following the conclusion of the remarks of Senator Kennedy.

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 the majority leader in the Senate, 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 that short time 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 soft-spoken style 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 JOHN McCAIN, 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 it deals 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 the other evening when my good friend Senator REID, 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 a leader, 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 want to thank Senator SNOWE and Senator DEWINE who worked across the aisle to fashion a very important amendment that helped clarify some important provisions that we had not felt needed further clarification, but they pointed out the reasons for it were constructive in working through it.

I thank my friend, Dr. Frist, who has 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 Senator NELSON, Senator LANDRIEU, 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 BREAX has been very much involved with health policy issues and was very involved in this.

Tom HARKIN has been a 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
difficult to always be able to anticipate the interrelationship between these issues, the importance of what we are doing and how it affects other legislation we have passed, what the impact will be with States and local communities, the impact with the business community, consumers, and others. We have been very successful, we have served across the board by the staff who have worked tirelessly on this issue just as they did on the education issue. There are an incredible number of very capable men and women who have devoted an extraordinary amount of time and effort and who have made an extraordinary mark on this legislation.

I thank all of them: For Senator McCain, Sonya Sotak, Jean Bumpus, Cassandra Wood and Mark Busee; for Senator Edwards, Jeff Lane, Miles Lackey, Kyle Kinner, Hunter Pruett, and Lisa Zeldner. I want to thank the staff of Senator Daschle and Senator Reid, all of the floor staff and the clerks, including Marty Paone, Lula Davis, Gary Myrick, and also in particular Elizabeth Hargrave and Deborah Adler. I thank them very much. Senator Daschle has mentioned Mark Childress and Mark Patterson. They are leaders of a very capable and able team that works very closely with Senator Daschle. They are not only fiercely loyal and committed to him but they are enormous sources of help and assistance to all Members in our caucus. We are all very grateful to all of them. For Senator Gregg, Stephanie Monroe, and Steve Irrigary, and Kim Monk.

Now to my own staff, to whom I am incredibly grateful. No one has worked longer or harder, has been more committed or with greater success in terms of legislative achievement than David Naxon, the head of my health care team. Dave has been an invaluable resource, a very valuable part of our team. I remember him from when I interviewed him for the job and asked him to write an essay about health care. I still remember his strong commitment in that essay to universal coverage, comprehensive coverage, quality at a price people can afford. He has never let up on that ideal. It is one of the reasons I admire him so much. I am incredibly grateful to him. I will mention others in no particular order. I thank Michael Myers who is our chief of staff for our whole committee and takes on the broad responsibilities in health, education, and all the matters of that committee. Michael and I go back a long time, initially working together on refugee issues. He is a very capable and effective in our efforts in that cause. And now, he has been good enough to stay the course with me and has just been an extraordinary leader for our committee. I am grateful to him for his friendship and leadership on the committee.

I thank Jeff Tetz who is a master of many complicated aspects of the bill. If you have a complex issue that needs to be mastered, call Jeff Tetz. Sarah Bianco has full energy and intelligence and has had a distinguished career in working with former Vice President Gore. She has been a great addition to our team.

Jerry Wesvich, I thank him so much for his presence. I mentioned a little while ago that this is Jerry’s last day working in the Senate. He will be working for the legal service programs down in Texas and New Mexico. This is a person, like so many others on the Hill, strongly committed to improving our society, and I regret losing him.

I know though that he will be involved in making a better community.

Janie Oates is the master of all trades and knows every TRIO program, every program that reaches out to the most needy country and society, and has been enormously helpful to me in this endeavor as well.

I also thank Stacey Sachs who was here day in and day out and always seemed to have the answer. I remember the debate on the questions on the standard of medical necessity and the points being made about the standard we used in the Federal employers health plan. Stacey knew, yes, that was true but in the appeal provision a different standard was used. She knew the details of it, which was a key point. She is an extraordinary reservoir of good common sense and knowledge.

Jim Manley has been a great help and a good friend and has helped so much in terms of being able to communicate these issues and this whole policy area effectively. Jim has been tireless. Elizabeth Field, Marty Walsh, so many others worked not just here on the floor but outside, as well, in terms of working with various groups and helping to bring what is happening at the grass roots here to the Senate floor. Amelia Dungan and Jackie Gran. I thank David Bowen very much. He is a great master in understanding so much of the new research and what is happening in the outer edges of biomedical research. We had debate on some of those issues, and we will have more later. These are complex ethical issues and questions. Dave is a master of all of them. Beth Cameron and Paul Kim also deserve thanks. Paul joined our staff and has been enormously valuable and helpful, as he was in the House of Representatives.

Thanks also go out to our many dedicated interns, Dan Muñoz, Madhu Church, Tarak Shah, Nina Dutta, Nicole Salazar-Austin, Abby Moncrieff, Eddie Santos, Kent Mitchell, Haris Hardaway, Nirav Shah, Charita Sinha, Les Chun and Wyley Proctor. Their energy and dedication certainly helped us along the way.

I appreciate our Presiding Officer and our Senate staff for their patience this evening while we make sure that the history of tonight will include so many who did so much to make tonight a very important step toward helping our fellow American citizens get better quality health care.