And volunteered time to all groups that did ask.
Still active and busy, not once standing still
This 90's woman of the 80's thought life was a thrill.
Now the 90's have come, and Mom still shows us how
You can work hard, enjoy life and do it all now.
Life's never dull if you give it your best
And God's blessed us with a Mother above all the rest.
On this great occasion Mike and I say
Congrats Mom, we love you, let's make this your day.
Mother of the Year we salute you and say
You're a woman ahead of your time to this day.

So I rise to salute Dorothy Enzi, and all the mothers in this country, and particularly the good bringing up that our good Senator from Wyoming has had from his mother.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RESTRUCTURING AND REFORM ACT OF 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I point out that it is almost 5 minutes to 1, and we still have a great deal of territory to cover if we are going to complete this legislation today. And it is my intent to stay here until we do so.

The question of restructuring IRS is a matter of great importance. It is important that we get on with the job. So I want everyone in the Senate to know that it is my full intent to complete consideration of this bill today. That means we have to get on with the job. And we are sitting here waiting for amendments to be brought to the floor.

So I say to each of my colleagues, if you have any intention of bringing up an amendment, now is the time to do it, because time is moving rapidly and I know many of you want to get out of here this evening.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for 4 minutes as in morning business.

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

MANAGED CARE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, one of the issues that we think is very important and needs to be addressed by this Congress is the issue of managed care. A number of us have, every day the Senate has been in session recently, brought to the floor stories of what is happening in health care in this country and examples why a Patients' Bill of Rights, which we would like to see the Congress enact, would be beneficial to the American people.

Today I want to tell you about a man named Frank Wurzbacher of Alexandria, Kentucky. Fred received monthly injections of a drug called leupron as treatment for his prostate cancer. Under his retiree health plan, that treatment, which cost $500 per injection, was fully covered.

When a different insurance company took over as the plan administrator, however, the new company notified Mr. Wurzbacher that his coverage for this treatment was reduced from 100 percent to only two-thirds of the total cost. In other words, rather than paying the full $500 for the shot, the company would pay only $320.

At the time, Mr. Wurzbacher was a 66-year old retiree. He didn't have the extra $180 a month for the leupron injections, so he asked his physician what his alternatives were. The physician said the aggressiveness of the cancer suggested that the only other alternative was the removal of the patient's testicles. The surgery was approved. Mr. Wurzbacher had that surgery and then returned home from the hospital to find a letter from the insurance company notifying him that it had made a mistake and that his plan would, in fact, pay the full $500 for the monthly leupron injection. But by then, of course, it was too late; the surgery had been done.

That should not have happened to Mr. Wurzbacher and would not happen if the Patients' Bill of Rights were law. Under the Patients' Bill of Rights, there would have been an appeal of the new plan administrator's decision and that appeal, perhaps, would have then disclosed that the coverage for leupron was in fact fully available. Mr. Wurzbacher would not have had to go through his operation. Of course, no one can turn back the clock, and Mr. Wurzbacher is just one more victim of decision-making by those who all too often see medical care as a function of dollars and cents and the bottom line, rather than as a function of saving someone's life.

The Patients' Bill of Rights simply says that those 160 million Americans who are now herded into managed care organizations for their health care have certain rights. One of those rights ought to be the right to be told all of your medical options for the treatment of your disease, not just the cheapest option.

You also ought to have a right to appeal an adverse decision that is made about your health care by your managed care plan. Such an appeal may very well have prevented the kind of tragedy that was visited on Frank Wurzbacher of Alexandria, KY.

Mr. President, we hope very much that Republicans and Democrats together this year will agree that the issue of managed care and the issue of a Patients' Bill of Rights should be brought to the floor of the Senate and addressed not only in the Senate, but also by legislation enacted by Congress this year. We will continue to discuss on the floor of the Senate the stories of the problems people face, one by one across this country, with managed care when managed care organizations view health care as a function of someone's profit and loss statement.

Let me conclude by describing, as I have on previous occasions, an interesting front-page story in the New York Times about a woman who had suffered a severe brain injury and was being transported by ambulance to a hospital. She had the presence of mind, as her brain was swelling from this injury, to tell the ambulance driver she wanted to be transported to the hospital farthest away. She said this because she knew that the closer hospital, which was affiliated with her health care plan, had a reputation for treating emergency room care as a function of the bottom line. She wanted to go to an emergency room in which someone looked at her and did what needed to be done in every circumstance, against all odds, to save her life. She was fearful enough of going to a hospital where she would be viewed as a function of someone else's bottom line that she wanted to be transported to the hospital farther away.

That relates to this issue. Should health care that relates to a specific patient's condition be practiced in a doctor's office or a hospital, or should decisions about a patient's health care be made in an insurance office 2,400 miles away by some accountant? The American people understand what the answer to that question should be. The answer is embodied in a proposal called the Patients' Bill of Rights. That proposal has been introduced here in the Senate, and I hope very soon that we can bring a proposal of this type to the floor of the Senate and discuss these central questions about health care in this country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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