of the United Nations several weeks to seek a diplomatic solution.

A short period of time is coming to a close. I am ready to work with the President and my colleagues in Congress to find new tools to bring to bear in order to stop the violence in Darfur.

Along with several colleagues, I am preparing to introduce legislation to provide some of those additional tools in this effort.

The most effective policy instruments will be multilateral, meaning many nations involved in achieving this goal. But in the meantime, the United States must act. We cannot let more months pass while people continue to suffer.

I hope by next week the President of the United States will have reached a conclusion that the Secretary General has had his opportunity, that the United Nations may not be able to broker some diplomatic resolution. I hope at that time the President of the United States—and I will urge him to—will make a decision that we should step out in terms of sanctions against the Sudanese Government.

What is at stake? Two hundred thousand to four hundred thousand innocent people who were killed—men, women, and children whose villages were destroyed, whose homes were destroyed, children were killed, terrible atrocities against humanity. Over 2 million people were displaced, forced to trudge across the desert to try to stay alive to make it to a refugee camp. Why? Because the Government of their country in Sudan has, frankly, ignored the obvious, that the jingaweit militia and other forces are killing their own people. That is clearly genocide, and it is a situation we can no longer tolerate.

I hope we can find bipartisan support for decisive action. I hope we can say to the Chinese: Yes, we applaud your sending 300 engineers into this region that is as large as the State of Texas. Yes, we applaud the public statements you have made encouraging the Sudanese to accept the U.N. peacekeeping force. But the Chinese can and must do more.

China is the biggest customer in the world for Sudanese oil. If the Chinese make it clear they are not going to continue their relationship with Sudan unless something is done to end this genocide, it can make a big difference. I think it is important they do these things. Certainly, to condemn violence on one hand and then sell the arms and ammunition to the Sudanese that is being used against their own people is duplicitous. It is not consistent. The Chinese should think long and hard about whether they can serve both roles and try to convince the world they are doing something meaningful.

In the meantime, I think we need a divestment strategy. I think it is time for the United States, first, to change the law so State and local governments can make decisions to divest in mutual funds, in investment funds that relate to companies doing business in Sudan. Right now the courts have stopped that kind of divestment. We can change that law, and I have pending legislation to do that. We need to have our own policy in this country to put pressure on the Sudanese to accept the U.N. peacekeepers—not American soldiers but U.N. peacekeepers—who will come to the rescue of these poor people who are suffering in Darfur. This is a situation which calls on the United States to keep its word. When the President announced the genocide in Darfur, he reminded us of what happened in Rwanda. Under the previous administration in Rwanda, the genocide occurred which claimed as many as 800,000 innocent lives. The administration at that time, under President Clinton, was warned and took no action, would not declare a genocide. As a consequence, the massacre occurred. We know it could have been averted with very few soldiers, maybe even as few as 5,000 soldiers. Supplementing the U.N. peacekeeping force could have saved 800,000 lives. It is unimaginable that we did not respond, or at least help others to respond.

President Clinton, reflecting on this, has said it is one of the real disappointments and failures in foreign policy during the terms he served as President. Let's not repeat that mistake.

I have urged President Bush, with a year and a half left of his term, and so many other things that he has to consider, to remember a promise he made when he announced the genocide in Darfur. He said: Not on my watch.

Well, Mr. President, your watch is drawing to a close, and you have a chance, you have the power, unlike any other person in the world, to make a difference in Darfur. If the Secretary General of the United Nations will not respond in a timely way, we must respond. Some may argue it might fail. Maybe we won't succeed, but at least we will have tried.

I always think, when we come to these discussions about this kind of challenge, about one of my favorite movies: ''Schindler's List.'' At the end of ''Schindler's List,'' Oskar Schindler, if you will remember, was a businessman who started off with the goal of making money and then decided that he had a bigger goal in life, and that was to save as many Jewish people as he could by declaring that they were workers and employees in his plant. He managed to save so many lives.

At the end of the movie there was this graphic scene where the workers—the war was over and the workers were finally free, and they wanted to show their gratitude to Mr. Schindler. So they asked the workers to give up the gold fillings in their teeth, and they knocked out the gold fillings in their teeth and melted it into a ring that they gave him as a gift for saving their lives.

There was this touching scene at the end of the movie where Liam Neeson, who was playing the role of Oskar Schindler, was standing by this car about to leave the factory, and they presented him with this ring. He broke down, and his words are unforgettable. He said: I should have done more. I should have done more.

I think about that in the context of Darfur. When it is all over, and history is written, I don't want to have to stand here and ask any Senator to say: I should have done more. We need to do something, and we need to do it now. If it is not successful in ending the genocide in Darfur, at least we can say we have given it our best effort. But today we can't say that. We haven't done nearly as much as we should or could do to help these suffering people.

When history is written, it will perhaps applaud our declaration of genocide, but there won't be much applause for the little action that has followed. It is not too late.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ASSISTING THE ARMED FORCES

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, this week I introduced two bills to assist members of the armed services and veterans. S. 1314, the Veterans Outreach Improvement Act, will help to ensure that all of our veterans know about Federal benefits to which they may be entitled by improving outreach programs conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs. S. 1313, the Servicemembers' Cellular Phone Contract Fairness Act, will ensure that deployed servicemembers are not subjected to unfair penalties for cancelling their cell phone contracts.

I would also like to thank my good friend, the junior Senator from Hawaii, for holding a hearing yesterday that considered both of these bills along with many other important pieces of legislation to improve the treatment of veterans, servicemembers and their families. Senator AKAKA is a strong leader on these vitally important issues as chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee and I commend him on his efforts and look forward to working with him to enact veterans' benefits legislation that includes my two proposals.

I am pleased to be joined in the effort to improve outreach by the Department of Veterans Affairs by the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. BURR. I introduced identical legislation in the 108th and 109th Congresses. I am also pleased to note that there is a companion bill in the House, H.R. 67, sponsored by Representative MCINTYRE. On Tuesday, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance

and Memorial Affairs approved the bill by a voice vote.

I was extremely troubled by revelations of gaps in care as servicemembers transition to the VA that emerged as a result of investigations of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I appreciate the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs' attempts to remedy these gaps, but more work remains to be done. It can be extremely difficult for veterans to navigate the VA's health care and benefits systems. This bill will increase congressional oversight of the VA's outreach activities and authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to work with States to perform outreach.

Several years ago, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, WDVA, launched a statewide program called ''I Owe You.'' Under the direction of Secretary Ray Boland, the program encourages veterans to apply, or to reapply, for benefits that they earned from their service in the U.S. military.

As part of this program, WDVA has sponsored several events around Wisconsin called ''Supermarkets of Veterans Benefits'' at which veterans can begin the process of learning whether they qualify for Federal benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA. These events, which are based on a similar program in Georgia, supplement the work of Wisconsin's County Veterans Service Officers and veterans service organizations by helping our veterans to reconnect with the VA and to learn more about services and benefits for which they may be eligible. More than 11,000 veterans and their families have attended the supermarkets, which include information booths with representatives from WDVA, VA, and veterans service organizations, as well as a variety of Federal, State, and local agencies. I was proud to have members of my staff speak with veterans and their families at a number of these events. These events have helped veterans and their families to learn about numerous topics, including health care, how to file a disability claim, and preregistration for internment in veterans cemeteries.

The Institute for Government Innovation at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government recognized the ''I Owe You'' program by naming it a semi-finalist for the 2002 Innovations in American Government Award. The program was also featured in the March/April 2003 issue of Disabled American Veterans Magazine.

The State of Wisconsin is performing a service that is clearly the obligation of the VA. These are Federal benefits that we owe to our veterans and it is the Federal Government's responsibility to make sure that they receive them. The VA has a statutory obligation to perform outreach, and current budget pressures should not be used as an excuse to halt or reduce these efforts.

The legislation that I introduced was spurred by the overwhelming response to the WDVA's ''I Owe You'' program and the supermarkets of veterans benefits. If more than 11,000 Wisconsin veterans are unaware of benefits that may be owed to them, it is troubling to think how many veterans around our country are also unaware of them. We can and should do better for our veterans, who selflessly served our country and protected the freedoms that we all cherish. And it is important to address gaps in the VA's outreach program as we welcome home and prepare to enroll into the VA system the tens of thousands of dedicated military personnel who are serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places around the globe.

In order to help to facilitate consistent implementation of VA's outreach responsibilities around the country, my bill would create a statutory definition of the term ''outreach.''

My bill also would help to improve outreach activities performed by the VA in three ways. First, it would create separate funding line items for outreach activities within the budgets of the VA and its agencies, the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the National Cemetery Administration. Currently funding for outreach is taken from the general operating expenses for these agencies. These important programs should have a dedicated funding source instead of being forced to compete for scarce funding with other crucial VA programs.

I have long supported efforts to adequately fund VA programs. We can and should do more to provide the funding necessary to ensure that our brave veterans are getting the health care and other benefits that they have earned in a timely manner and without having to travel long distances or wait more than a year to see a doctor or to have a claim processed.

Secondly, the bill would create an intra-agency structure to require the Office of the Secretary, the Office of Public Affairs, the VBA, the VHA, and the NCA to coordinate outreach activities. By working more closely together, the VA components would be able to consolidate their efforts, share proven outreach mechanisms, and avoid duplication of effort that could waste scarce funding.

Finally, the bill would ensure that the VA can enter into cooperative agreements with State Departments of Veterans Affairs regarding outreach activities and would give the VA grantmaking authority to award funds to State Departments of Veterans Affairs for outreach activities such as the WDVA's ''I Owe You Program.'' Grants that are awarded to State departments under this program could be used to enhance outreach activities and to improve activities relating to veterans claims processing, which is a key component of the VA benefits process. State departments that receive grants under this program may choose to award portions of their grants to local governments, other public entities, or private or nonprofit organizations that engage in veterans outreach activities.

I am pleased that this bill has the support of a number of organizations that are committed to improving the lives of our Nation's veterans, including the American Legion; Veterans of Foreign Wars; Paralyzed Veterans of America; Vietnam Veterans of America; Wounded Warrior Project; and National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

The second bill that I introduced seeks to make life a little easier for our servicemembers and their families when they are called up to duty or transferred. We all recognize the heroic service the men and women in our armed services provide the Nation each day. So when I heard stories about servicemembers and their families in Wisconsin having trouble canceling their cell phone contracts after being called up, I looked for a way to help. With the prospect of a combat assignment, the last thing our men and women in uniform should have to worry about are early termination fees or being forced to pay for a service they cannot use. I tried to have this provision adopted as an amendment to the Defense authorization bill last June and, while I was unsuccessful, I will continue to push for the adoption of this commonsense measure.

These problems with canceling cellular phone service have not been just isolated incidents. In fact, the issue has been raised by the Wisconsin National Guard. I will ask that the full testimony of 1LT Melissa Inlow of the Wisconsin Army National Guard at a hearing on a Wisconsin State Assembly bill in April be made part of the RECORD.

I just want to highlight one part of that testimony that makes the point that this is a real issue facing our servicemembers. She testified: ''It's becoming increasingly difficult to get cell phone service providers to suspend the contract. Even with suspension the soldiers are still paying up to $25 a month for a service they cannot reap the benefits of. These fees can accumulate to more than the termination fee which on average is $200.'' First Lieutenant Inlow went on to specifically recommend that the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act be amended to include a section on cellular phones.

First Lieutenant Inlow and the Wisconsin National Guard are not alone in this opinion either. The National Guard Association of the United States, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, and the Military Officers Association of America have supported my proposal since the original amendment was offered last June. I was glad to add the support of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Disabled Veterans of America, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars to this list when they expressed support at a recent Veterans Affairs hearing. This

practically universal support among the current armed services and the veterans communities clearly show that this commonsense provision should be enacted.

It is common now for cellular phone contracts to require a contract term of up to 2 years. Along with these long contracts, there are often early termination fees of several hundred dollars. When National Guard members are called up to active duty or soldiers are transferred overseas or to a base that isn't covered by their current provider, they often face the prospect of either paying these significant fees or paying monthly fees for the remainder of the contract for a service they cannot use. While many servicemembers and their families have been able to work with telecommunications companies to eventually get the early termination fee canceled, the account suspended, or the fees reduced, they have enough to deal with after being called up that they should not have this added burden as well.

My legislation proposes that we bring these cellular phone contracts in line with what we have already done for residential and automotive leases in the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act—let the servicemembers cancel the contract. Under my proposal, if servicemembers are called up for more than 90 days, transferred overseas, or transferred to a U.S. duty station where they could not continue their service at the same rate, they could cancel their contract without a termination fee.

While my legislation helps to prevent servicemembers from being financially punished for volunteering to protect this country, I have also tried to make sure that the telecommunications providers are treated fairly as well. That is why I have included a provision that would allow the providers to request the return of cell phones provided as part of the contract. If the company requests the return under this provision, it would also have to give the servicemember the option of paying a prorated amount for the cell phone should he or she wish to keep it. Moreover, if the provider and servicemember mutually agree to suspend instead of terminate the contract, the bill makes sure that the reactivation fee is waived.

Several States, including Wisconsin, have already given servicemembers this protection. While these State laws are positive steps, a national law will make sure all servicemembers are afforded this protection and give the industry a baseline standard.

While this is a modest addition to the rights of servicemembers, it is important that we remove as many unfair burdens facing this country's men and women in uniform as we can. I hope my colleagues will share this view and quickly adopt this nonpartisan proposal.

Both of these two bills I introduced earlier in the week and that were considered in yesterday's Veteran's Affairs Committee hearing have widespread support. I hope this support will translate into the Veterans Affairs Committee including them as part of its package of veterans' benefits legislation later this year. I again, want to thank Chairman AKAKA and the Veterans Affairs Committee for considering my bills to improve outreach activities and allow servicemembers to cancel cellular phone contracts in yesterday's hearing.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the aforementioned testimony of 1LT Melissa Inlow be printed in the RECORD.

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

TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD OF FIRST LIEUTENANT MELISSA INLOW AT A HEARING ON WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY BILL 1174 ON APRIL 17, 2006

Thank you, chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity to speak. The Department of Military Affairs and the Wisconsin National Guard is in support of Senate bill 1174. I am First Lieutenant Melissa Inlow, a Judge Advocate General Officer with the Wisconsin Army National Guard. By granting servicemembers the right to terminate their cell phone contracts upon mobilization, you are ensuring further protections and peace of mind for our servicemembers. In August of 2005, I was brought on to provide legal assistance to our deployed servicemembers and their families. Since that time, about 3–5 percent of my time has been dedicated to assisting servicemembers in resolving issues with their cell phone service contracts. It's becoming increasingly difficult to get cell phone service providers to suspend the contract. Even with suspension the soldiers are still paying up to $25 a month for a service they cannot reap the benefits of. These fees can accumulate to more than the termination fee which on average is $200. I've found it very difficult and sometimes impossible to reach a live person and very difficult to reach a person with decision making authority. Each time I have had to call a cellular phone service provider, I have talked to a different customer service representative, and each has given me a different resolution to the cell phone issue. The companies are lacking significantly in internal consistency when it comes to resolving cell phone contract issues. It has been my experience that the customer service representatives of cell phone companies experience high turnover rate and are not aware of the wireless provider's policy on military suspension. It is extremely frustrating for me; I can only imagine the undue stress and strain it causes our deploying servicemembers and their families that are left behind to deal with these issues. This change will likely help ease the stress deployment places on our servicemembers allowing them to focus on their mission. I hope that the Federal Government will follow suit and amend the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act to incorporate a section on cell phone contracts.

OXFORD COUNTY VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, it is truly a solemn honor to join in recognizing these exceptional soldiers extraordinary enough to have worn our Nation's uniform as you gather for the unveiling of the Oxford County Vietnam War Memorial

It is fitting and just that on this Armed Services Day, as we express our gratefulness to soldiers in service to our Nation, we commemorate those who saw service in Vietnam—especially the 37 Mainers who perished or are considered missing in action, whose revered names are remembered for all time on this Vietnam War Memorial. This tribute to their valor and their enduring dedication to duty reminds us that all the blessings of liberty we cherish today, the protection of our families, and the strength of our democracy represent our inheritance from generations past that we are obligated to safeguard and carry forth into the future.

This shining example of their contribution will serve not only to inspire—but also to heal. It will ensure that we always regard with the highest respect the inexpressible debt of gratitude we owe all soldiers and their families which we can never repay, but must never forget. And to faithfully and appropriately honor those who have fallen, we must nurture and protect the founding democratic principles we treasure, for which they so bravely made the ultimate sacrifice.

Every name etched on this wall corresponds to a unique story, but all are bound together, each to each, comrade to comrade, and soldier to soldier, by a universal, selfless devotion a commitment eloquently memorialized by President John Adams when he wrote, ''if we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind whom should we serve?

Two servicemen, SGT James B. Bartlett, U.S. Army, 1st Infantry Division, Bethel and SSG John H. R. Brooks, U.S. Army, 129th Assault Helicopter, Peru, are both missing in action, and so this monument must also stand as a testament that we will honorably keep the faith with those who so valiantly kept their faith with us.

Each person we celebrate on this wall dignifies this memorial and makes it the sacred destination that it is intended to be, and that dignity is passed on to each of us when we pay rightful homage to the nobility of their deeds and the legacy of their love for this country.

May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

CAR AND CHILD SAFETY

Mrs. CLINTON. Madam President, it is with deep regret that I share the following story of a constituent of mine. On April 24, Kristen McCrea, a woman from Amherst, NY, lost her daughter in a nontraffic, noncrash incident. Collett McCrea was only 22 months old. The incident occurred when Kristen left her daughter in their home briefly while backing her car out of the garage. Little did Kristen know that Collett had gotten out of the house and was behind