

different parts of Nevada. We have raised money together for the cause of Democrats. We have raised money for each other. It has always been a pleasure to work with her on this and other issues.

BARBARA and I came to Washington together in 1982, 34 years ago. BARBARA and I will be leaving Washington together after 34 memorable years together.

Senator BARBARA BOXER, congratulations on your historic career as a Senator for 40 million Californians and 300 million citizens of the United States.

BARBARA, remember, you are and always will be my sister.

Godspeed, BARBARA.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Senator REID, my leader, I can't tell you how humble I feel to hear you talk about my career and to put it, in many ways, in a historic place.

I am going to have a lot to say about your career, what you have meant to me. Today I won't get into it, but you are a man—you just don't throw words around. I know how humble you are because every time I try to praise you, even in a situation with just a few people around you, you look down like you are doing now. It makes you uncomfortable. I don't want to make you uncomfortable. So here is what I am going to say today. I am going to make you uncomfortable in the near future when I talk about your career and what it has meant to me. But today, hearing you talk about what you just said, weaving our friendship, our work together, and our family friendship has meant a lot to me.

Obviously, I am going to miss you, but I will say this. As we enter into uncharted territories in terms of politics, I know you and I are not going to lose our voices. We will have a platform. We are not leaving because we are tired of the fight. We are not leaving because we have nothing more to say, we are leaving because we think it is time for the next generation. I look forward to working with you in the future—and I mean that sincerely—just fighting for the things we care about, whether it is Lake Tahoe or whether it is clean air, whether it is fighting against the ravages of climate change, whether it is fighting for the right of the American people, from children to seniors, to have affordable health care. We are not going into the wilderness. That I was able to protect more than a million acres—I am so proud you mentioned that.

Today you have humbled me with your words. I will always be your sister. Thank you very much.

I yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there are many disagreements in this Chamber and between the House and the Senate, but I think there is one thing we fundamentally agree on. Our system of immigration in this country is broken. There are many different ways to approach it in changing it, improving it, and fixing it, but most of us concede something is wrong. If we have 11 to 12 million people living in the United States who are not documented or not legal, by our definition—and that has been going on for years, sometimes decades—it raises a serious question about whether our immigration system works, whether it is responsive, and whether it serves the best interests of the United States.

Many of the people who are here once came to the United States on visitors' visas that they were supposed to ultimately see come to an end and leave, but they stayed. They got married. They had children in the United States who became citizens. Those who think that families represent the large share of undocumented people don't take a look at the families individually. They should. You may find in one household of a mother, father, and two or three children that only one person is undocumented, and it might be the mother.

The one thing we also came to discover was that there were many people here who were undocumented, technically illegal under our system, and they were in that condition through no fault of their own. Well, who could that be? Children—children who were brought here as toddlers, infants, small kids, and brought in with their families. They had no voice in the decision to come to America, but the family did, and they grew up here. Some of them came at a very early age. They didn't speak the language of their original country. They never visited that country.

From the start, they thought they were Americans. They went to school, went to class, put their hands over their hearts and pledged allegiance to the only flag they ever knew. They

sang the only national anthem they really knew, and they believed they were Americans. At some point in their lives, maybe someone in the household said: Let me tell you a stark truth here: You are not legal by this Nation's standards.

It was because of that group that I introduced a bill 15 years ago called the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act really defined this category of people who are undocumented, were brought here as children, grew up in America, graduated from our schools, and didn't create any criminal record in their lifetime, and they were hoping and praying that they would get a chance to stay in a legal status as citizens. That is what the DREAM Act was all about. It is just for these—they have come to be known as DREAMers—who came here as children and infants, to be given that choice.

It was a few years ago that I wrote a letter to President Obama—signed by Senator Lugar of Indiana, a Republican, who shared my feelings—and asked the President if he could do something to protect these young people from being deported. We had a number of Senators join me in a subsequent letter, and the President acted, creating something called DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program.

What it boiled down to was that, if these undocumented young people who came here as young children would step forward, identify themselves to our government, pay about \$500 in a filing fee, and go through a criminal background check, we would give them a 2-year temporary protection from being deported and give them a temporary right to work in this country.

The DACA Program turned out to be a big success as 740,000 young people were eligible, signed up, and were cleared to be approved for this DACA status.

Then came a change in administrations, which will happen in just a few weeks. Questions started being raised. What is going to happen to these young people—the ones who complied with the law as they were told it existed, who did a risky thing in identifying themselves to a government, paid their fee, went through the background check, and now are in the United States? I have met so many of them—thousands of them across this country, the DREAMers, those who are DACA eligible, those who are DACA approved. They are amazing stories.

At the Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago, they decided to open a competition in their medical school to allow these DACA-eligibles to apply—not to give them a special number of billets or positions in the school but to say: You can apply with everyone else.

For many of these young people from across the United States who dreamed of being a doctor one day, this was the answer to a prayer, and they were ready for it. They competed and they

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.