

million Medicare recipients represent a bargaining unit and we want a discount from these pharmaceutical companies that are making excessive, obscene profits.

There are a lot of issues people care about. There are many issues on which we need to move forward. In particular, in order to do well by people, we are going to have to be not only intellectually honest, but we will have to have some political courage—political courage to talk about the ways in which this tax cut bill puts us in a strait-jacket and amounts to a miserable failure from the point of view of our being able to do well for people and from the point of view of our being willing to live up to our promises. Everybody who ran for office talked about an affordable prescription drug benefit.

In addition, we are going to have to challenge some of the profits of the pharmaceutical industry and have some cost containment so this works.

#### VICTIMS ECONOMIC SECURITY AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. WELLSTONE. Madam President, today I am going to introduce legislation, the Victims Economic Security and Safety Act, with Senator MURRAY—she probably will not be able to be at the press conference because she is doing such an admirable job of standing her proper ground for safety—Senator SCHUMER and Senator DODD; and Representatives CAROLYN MALONEY and LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD on the House side.

Basically, this legislation deals with what is a huge problem; that is to say, estimates are that as many as 50 percent of the victims of domestic violence have lost jobs in part due to their struggle. The same thing holds true for victims of sexual assault.

The legislation addresses three or four issues. No. 1, it would provide emergency leave for those women—sometimes men, almost always women—who are having to deal with the battering and with the violence, be it in the home, be it sexual assault, be it stalking. It will allow them to take some time off from work to see a lawyer, to see a doctor, to do what they need to do.

No. 2, it would extend unemployment compensation to people who are forced to leave their jobs in order to provide for their own safety and their children's safety. Amazingly, this happens in about 50 percent of the cases: Quite often for these women, the man—be it the former husband, a stalker, somebody who has assaulted them sexually—will come to their workplace and constantly be there. And in order to be safe, in order sometimes literally to save their lives, in order for their children to be safe, they then have to leave work. We want to, with documentation, be able to provide some unemployment compensation.

No. 3, it would prohibit discrimination against victims of domestic and

sexual assault. This is critically important. What happens is the employer—and some of the employers are great—sometimes says: This is creating a lot of trouble. Therefore, we fire you.

That is the last thing in the world you want to do.

It also provides protection from insurance company discrimination. There is no reason why women should be battered again by an insurance company that says: We understand that this guy has come to work, is threatening you, that you have this problem. We don't think you are a good bet for health insurance.

Finally, it provides tax credits to companies that will provide the programs and the help.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from Nevada.

#### EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended for another 10 minutes.

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

#### STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. REID. Madam President, before the Senator from Minnesota leaves the floor, I wish to say was not able to hear all of his statement but most of it. He mentioned what we need around here is political courage. That is something that is not lacking in the service of the Senator from Minnesota.

I appreciate his legislation regarding stalking and domestic violence. Stalking is a very evil thing, for lack of a better way to put it. I can't imagine how difficult it is for people who are stalked.

Senator ENSIGN and I had the misfortune of having somebody who was stalking us. It was very serious. He felt he had been aggrieved in Mexico and that we should do something about it. Of course, there was nothing we could do about it. It became a very big burden on my staff. He wouldn't leave my office. Finally, in an effort to get attention, rather than shoot one of my staff members or me, he shot himself in front of my office. He survived the gunshot wound and proceeded to continue to harass us. He was convicted and sent to prison. I only say that because if people of our stature and in the public awareness have difficulties, I can't imagine people who don't have the U.S. marshals and other people protecting them. So we need to do more. It is a very insidious thing. We need to do a better job of training law enforcement, although they are trained much better than they were regarding domestic violence. We need to have judges who better understand domestic violence.

I am anxious to look at the Senator's legislation. It sounds as if it is heading

toward the correct destination. We need to focus more attention on this national problem.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Nevada and tell him that, as we move forward, we will talk about some companies that have put together model programs. Again, unfortunately, what a bitter irony that for too many of these women—part of what this is all about is control. They have had the courage to move out of the home because the home is very dangerous for them and very dangerous for their children. Still, about every 15 seconds a woman is battered in the United States. Maybe this guy will come to work—and basically he doesn't want her to be working, so that is part of her independence. He will stalk her and make threats. Then all too often the employer will basically let her go, saying it is too much trouble. Then where is she? Quite often, she is forced back into a horrible situation. In about 50 percent of the cases, it happens where the guy or woman comes to work and the threats are made.

We are saying there has to be a way we can provide additional help and support. So we do a number of different things for those who have been victims of violence in homes, sexual assault, and stalking. A number of things are in this legislation. I think it would make a huge difference. I thank my colleague for his comments.

Mr. REID. I will say one more thing to the Senator. There are more animal shelters than there are domestic crisis shelters in America. In Nevada, a rapidly growing community, we are so understaffed. We have a lack of facilities. These brave women are willing to break away from this domestic violence, and we are having trouble finding a place for them to go. It is a really difficult situation, not only in Nevada but all over the country. It is a national problem. We have helped with some national moneys but not nearly enough.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank my colleague.

In addition, even if women have been in shelters, there is no affordable housing.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.