to accept recommendations given by an
independent advisory board, which ex-
aimed the American Red Cross's gov-
ernance structure and practices. H.R.
1681 reflects these recommendations
and would improve the American Red
Cross’s governance structure by cen-
tralizing and reorganizing its infra-
structure. Some notable enhancements
include reducing its board size from 50
members to 20 in order to facilitate
emergency action, giving the board all
the powers in governing and managing
the American Red Cross, and estab-
ishing a Presidential Advisory Council
composed of eight to ten principal offi-
cers of the executive departments and
senior officers of the Armed Forces to
provide governmental input and sup-
port. Additionally, the modernized
charter would enhance congressional
oversight and transparency by creating
an Ombudsman who would provide an
annual report to Congress articulating
any concerns of volunteers, employees,
donors, clients and the public. The
House adopted two amendments to the
Senate-passed language that would
clarify and ensure that the chapters of
the American Red Cross are geographi-
cally and regionally diverse and that
the American Red Cross will reach out
to local charitable and faith-based or-
organizations when providing relief serv-
ices in local communities. These im-
provements to the bill make no statu-
tory changes and I hope my colleagues
will support them.

According to the American Red
Cross’s end of the year report, Hurri-
cane Katrina created a record of 1.4
million families, or around 4 million
people, who needed emergency assist-
ance such as food, clothing and other
necessities. My wife, Marcelle, was one
of hundreds of thousands of volunteers
dedicated to providing these essential
relief services to victims of Katrina.
No one knows when the next disaster
will strike. Congress must do every-
thing in our power to ensure that the
American Red Cross can continue and
improve upon the essential humani-
tarian work on which the United
States and the world relies. I commend
the Red Cross for taking important ac-
tion to reform itself and I urge my col-
leagues to support this important leg-
islation.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I
ask unanimous consent that the bill be
read a third time and passed, the mo-
tion to reconsider be laid on the table,
and that any statements relating to
the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, if
there is no further business today, I
ask unanimous consent that the Sen-
ate stand adjourned under the provi-
sions of S. Res. 165 as a further mark of
respect to the memory of the late Rep-
resentative JUANITA MILLENDER-
MCDONALD.

There being no objection, the Senate,
at 5:26 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday,
April 24, 2007, at 10 a.m.