Mr. ENZI and myself, and then if read through the letter they sent to change with the administration.

We have had a good extension over the weekend. We certainly have gone through, in careful detail, the administration's position. We think the FDA—at a time we are having breakthroughs in knowledge, in science, in so many areas—we want to make sure the FDA is out there on the cutting edge with respect to these breakthroughs and know where they are going. We have had particular attention to those as well.

Then the Udall-Reagan Foundation is to try to look longer term at ways in which the agency functions and take a longer look to make recommendations to the private sector and to the public sector about how it can be more effective generally. That kind of idea has not been in the past. It is very well be enormously valuable and helpful to legislators in the future.

We have tried to get legislation that will provide the protection presently, help and assist breakthrough technologies and help to provide a faster track for the American people in the future, but to do it with greater safety protections for all families, and to recognize we are at a time of breakthrough science, which that agency has to have, and there are going to be breakthroughs in different modalities in that agency working in the future. We have tried to build into this an agency that can give us advice so we can be more effective in the future.

I hope we will be able to move ahead. I know we have gone through, in careful detail, the administration's position over the weekend. We certainly respect those. We have had a good exchange with the administration.

For those who are interested, if they read through the letter they sent to Senator Enzi and myself, and then if they look at the recommendation of the Institute of Medicine, they will find we are much closer to the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine. We may face some amendments in those areas. We look forward to having a good discussion and debate and the opportunity to expand some of the points we have made this evening.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Margaret Blackshear, a woman for whom I have great respect and admiration.

Margaret Blackshear has been involved in the labor movement for more than 40 years and remains deeply committed to helping the working families of Illinois. Until February, she served as president of the 1-million-member strong Illinois AFL-CIO, the third-largest state labor body in the country. Over the years, she has never been afraid to roll up her sleeves and join the picket line or to lead the march.

Margaret always arrived first and left last. She knows that America's working men and women—those who perform the most demanding yet vital tasks in our society—are the real heroes. For her, her service has been a privilege an opportunity to fight for rights she believes should be guaranteed.

Margaret didn't start out to be a labor leader; she began her career as a kindergarten teacher in Madison, IL. She became involved in the labor movement almost by accident, after she and her fellow teachers were repeatedly passed over for raises they had earned. In response, she and her colleagues mobilized to pass a referendum that would raise their wages. It wasn't just about the money. It was about having a voice.

This early effort led to a job with the local Illinois Federation of Teachers affiliate in Madison. Through hard work, Margaret rose to become statewide vice president of the IFT.