I again thank Senators KENNEDY and ENZI for the tremendous efforts that went into bringing this bill to the floor, and I again thank them for incorporating a number of the provisions set forth in the two bills filed by Senator DODD and me.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I understand there is a time allocation; am I correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. KENNEDY. Could the President tell us the time allocation remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republicans have 9 minutes remaining and the majority has 35 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. I note that the Senator from Maine was on the floor before I came down, and I know there are other Senators, Senator ROBERTS being one, who wanted to speak, and I think Senator BURR. We also have a number on our side.

My ranking member is here, and I imagine he will allocate the time on his side. I am glad to have the good Senator from Maine go ahead. Do you understand there are 9 minutes in total on her side.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to follow her.

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

IMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Massachusetts for his courtesy and for his cosponsorship of this initiative. I, obviously, want to also thank the sponsor of this legislation, with whom I am privileged to join the Senator from North Dakota, who has demonstrated leadership for the last decade on this initiative which is so crucial to the American consumer.

I rise to speak today on behalf of the Dorgan-Snowe amendment regarding drug importation. I know the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. COCHRAN, has offered a second-degree amendment to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services certify both the savings and safety of drug importation. Obviously, there is an issue for the safety of the American people. It is one that I appreciate strongly. It must be our highest priority. But we have been at this juncture before with respect to drug importation.

As I mentioned earlier, twice before we have seen the Congress adopt a requirement for the Secretary to certify safety and savings before implementing a program of prescription drug importation, and not a single prescription drug was imported under either the MDS Act of 2000 or the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. Americans deserve access to affordable medications, and that access must be safe, but