practically universal support among the current armed services and the veteran communities clearly show that this commonsense provision should be enacted.

It is common now for cellular phone contracts to extend for a contract term of up to 2 years. Along with these long contracts, there are often early termination fees of several hundred dollars. When National Guard members are called up to active duty or soldiers are transferred or to a base that isn't covered by their current provider, they often face the prospect of either paying these significant fees or paying monthly fees for the remainder of the contract for a service they cannot use. While many servicemembers and their families have been able to work with telecommunications companies to eventually get the early termination fee canceled, the account suspended, or the fees reduced, they have enough to deal with after being called up that they would not have this added burden as well.

My legislation proposes that we bring these cellular phone contracts in line with what we have already done for residential and automotive leases in the Servicemembers’ Civil Relief Act—let the servicemembers cancel the contract. Under my proposal, if servicemembers are called up for more than 90 days, transferred overseas, or transferred to a U.S. duty station where they cannot continue their service at the same rate, they could cancel their contract without a termination fee.

While my legislation helps to prevent servicemembers from being financially punished for volunteering to protect this country, I have also tried to make sure that the telecommunications providers are treated fairly as well. That is why I have included a provision that would allow the providers to request the return of cell phones provided as part of the contract. If the company requests the return under this provision, it would also have to give the servicemember the option of paying a pro-rated amount for the cell phone should he or she wish to keep it. Moreover, if the provider and servicemember mutually agree to suspend instead of terminate the contract, the bill makes sure that the reactivation fee is waived.

Several States, including Wisconsin, have already given servicemembers this protection. While these State laws are positive steps, a national law will make sure all servicemembers are afforded this protection and give the industry a baseline standard.

While this is a modest addition to the rights of servicemembers, it is important that we remove as many unfair burdens facing this country’s men and women in uniform as we can. I hope my colleagues will share this view and quickly adopt this nonpartisan proposal.

Both of these two bills I introduced earlier in the week and that were considered in yesterday’s Veteran’s Affairs Committee hearing have widespread support. I hope this support will translate into the Veteran’s Affairs Committee including them as part of its package of veterans’ benefits legislation later this year. I again want to thank Chairman Akaka and the Veteran’s Affairs Committee for considering my bill to improve outreach activities and allow servicemembers to cancel cellular phone contracts in yesterday’s hearing.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the aforementioned testimony of ILT Melissa Inlow be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**Testimony for the Record of First Lieutenant Melissa Inlow at a Hearing on Wisconsin Assembly Bill 1174 on April 17, 2006**

Thank you, chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity to speak. The Department of Military Affairs and the Wisconsin National Guard is in support of Senate bill 1174. I am First Lieutenant Melissa Inlow, a General Officer with the Wisconsin Army National Guard. By granting servicemembers the right to terminate their cell phone contracts upon mobilization, you are ensuring further protections and peace of mind for our servicemembers. In August of 2005, I was brought on to provide legal assistance to our deployed servicemembers and their families. Since that time, about 3-5 percent of my time has been dedicated to assisting servicemembers in resolving issues with their cell phones and their families. It’s become increasingly difficult to get cell phone service providers to suspend the contract. Even with suspension the soldiers are still paying up to $25 a month for a service they cannot reap the benefits of. These fees can accumulate to more than the termination fee which on average is $200. I’ve found it very difficult and sometimes impossible to reach a live person and very difficult to reach a person with decision making authority. Each time I have had to call a cellular service representatives have been different, and each has given me a different resolution to the cell phone issue. The companies are lacking significant internal consistency when it comes to resolving cell phone contract issues. It has been my experience that the customer service representatives of cellular phone companies experience high turnover rate and are not aware of the wireless provider’s policy on military suspension. It is extremely frustrating for me; I can only imagine the unfairness and strain it causes our deploying servicemembers and their families that are left behind to deal with these issues. This change will likely help ease the stress deployment places on our servicemembers allowing them to focus on their mission. I hope that the Federal Government will follow suit and amend the Servicemember’s Civil Relief Act to incorporate a section on cell phone contracts.

**Oxford County Vietnam War Memorial**

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, it is truly a solemn honor to join in recognizing these exceptional soldiers extraordinary enough to have worn our Nation’s uniform as you gather for the unveiling of the Oxford County Vietnam War Memorial.

It is fitting and just that on this Armed Services Day, as we express our gratefulness to soldiers in service to our Nation, we commemorate those who served in Vietnam—especially the 37 Mainers who are considered missing in action, whose revered names are remembered for all time on this Vietnam War Memorial. This tribute to their valor and their enduring dedication to duty reminds us that we owe all soldiers and their families which we cannot repay, but must never forget. And to faithfully and appropriately honor those who have fallen, we must nurture and protect the founding democratic principles we treasure, for which they so bravely made the ultimate sacrifice.

Every name etched on this wall corresponds to a unique story, but all are bound together, each to each, comrade to comrade, and soldier to soldier, by a universal, selfless devotion a commitment. Frequently mentioned by President John Adams when he wrote, “if we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind who should we serve?”

Two servicemen, SGT James B. Bartlett, U.S. Army, 1st Infantry Division, Bethel and SSG John H. Brooks, U.S. Army, 129th Assault Helicopter, Peru, are both missing in action, and so this monument must also stand as a testament that we will honorably keep the faith with those who so valiantly kept their faith with us.

Each person we celebrate on this wall dignifies this memorial and makes it the sacred destination that it is intended to be, and that dignity is passed on to each of us when we pay rightful homage to the nobility of their deeds and the legacy of their love for this country.

May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

**CAR AND CHILD SAFETY**

Mrs. CLINTON. Madam President, it is with deep regret that I share the following story of a constituent of mine. On April 24, Kristen McCrea, a woman from Amherst, NY, lost her daughter in a nontraffic, noncrash incident. Collett McCrea was only 22 months old. The incident occurred when Kristen left her daughter in their home while backing her car out of the garage. Little did Kristen know that Collett had gotten out of the house and was behind.