

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1200

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previous order with respect to H.R. 1328 be vitiated and that the Senate vote on passage of S. 1200, as amended; further, that any order that would have occurred on passage of H.R. 1328 now be effective on passage of S. 1200, and that all other provisions of previous orders remain in effect.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today we have heard the Farewell Address of General Washington.

Today we will debate the remaining pending amendments to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. At 5:30 this evening, we will have a cloture vote on the substitute amendment and votes in relation to two of the pending germane amendments by Senator DEMINT.

#### INDIAN HEALTH CARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in the month since this year's congressional session has opened, we have had the ability to focus on some of the domestic priorities our country faces.

Today we turn to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. Although we often have legitimate disagreements on matters of policy, Senator McCONNELL and members of the Republican Caucus have worked with us in a bipartisan manner on what we believe is a critical piece of legislation that does so much for the Native American community. I appreciate their efforts.

Chairman DORGAN and Senator MURKOWSKI deserve our thanks for their leadership and hard work in managing this legislation.

Chairman BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY followed suit, working on a bipartisan basis on provisions to improve the way by which the Indian health care system and tribal recipi-

ents can participate more fully in Social Security and the benefits that relate to health in Social Security. Senators KENNEDY, BINGAMAN, KYL, and ENZI spent years working on this legislation. Because of their efforts and those of countless tribal leaders and Federal agency staff, this is legislation that Democrats and Republicans can all support now.

A final word of praise is due to the tribal advocates who stood behind this cause from the beginning: The National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Health Board, the National Council of Urban Indian Health, the Indian Health Board of Nevada, and other State tribal organizations which have played crucial roles in this legislation. I say with confidence that this bill reflects their priorities, their varied interests, and their solutions to the problems that plague the health care system upon which Native Americans rely.

I was glad to be an original cosponsor of this initiative. Over the past 8 years, my staff and I have had countless meetings with tribal leaders. Now tribal leaders are making clear how this legislation is needed all over the country. It is needed for 30,000 Native Americans living in Nevada and millions living throughout the United States.

Right now, our Native American communities have access to the least adequate health care in America. Far too many Native children are diagnosed with diabetes, suffer from abuse and neglect or die prematurely because of accidents or illness that could have been prevented or cured with basic health care. Far too many adult Indians get lost in a sea of bureaucracy and fail to receive preventive care and other health benefits they need and deserve. We can and must do better, and this legislative initiative will help Federal and tribal health professionals deliver quality care to Native Americans of all ages. It supports the recruitment and retention of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other health professionals for Indian health programs. It strengthens and expands health services to American Indians. For the first time, tribes will be allowed to use Federal funds to provide hospice, long-term care and home-based and community-based care for elders and the most vulnerable tribal members. It increases individual access to health services by facilitating third-party reimbursements from private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and other Federal health benefit programs. It expressly addresses behavioral health needs of adults and children by authorizing programs to address suicide, substance abuse, sexual abuse, and domestic violence programs affecting some communities and households. It furthers tribal self-determination sovereignty by authorizing consultation and rulemaking on important programs affecting health delivery and access.

Chairman DORGAN has often said America spends more on health care,

per person, on Federal prisoners than on Native Americans. Senator DORGAN has said that many times. This bill is only part of the solution, but it is a critical first step. I urge all my colleagues to finish work and approve this bill in the same spirit of bipartisan cooperation it has seen from the beginning.

Millions of our first Americans await our action. Let's quickly pass this bill and send it to the President for his signature. We must let our country's Native Americans know they are not forgotten and that we will deliver them the care they have earned.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### FISA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this is going to be a very busy few weeks and a very important few weeks. First, we have to complete the Indian health bill. Then we will have a debate on progress in Iraq. After the Iraq debate, we will turn to the economy and home ownership, and then the annual budget debate when the two parties put their priorities on the table.

So in the midst of an extremely consequential Presidential race, the Senate will debate some of the most important issues of the day, including terrorism and the economy.

But the debate over FISA—the Terrorist Surveillance Act—should be over. A bipartisan majority in the Senate has already voted to revise and extend our Nation's foreign intelligence surveillance program. A majority in the House, we know—a bipartisan majority—supports the Senate bill, and the Director of National Intelligence says our ability to track terrorists was weakened by the House leadership's failure to act.

This failure to act on FISA has weakened our ability to track terrorists. For the safety of the American people, the House needs to take up the Senate bill that got 68 votes in the Senate, and it should do so without further delay.

Two competing plans for moving America forward will be on vivid display over the next few weeks. The two parties will make their case on the issues that matter most. Republicans are ready and eager for the debate.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank the minority leader of the Senate, Senator McCONNELL, for making that statement, but I would like to amend it. I would like to add something he failed to add and failed to advise the Senate.

We offered to extend the terrorist surveillance law. We said there shouldn't be any gap in terms of the efforts of the United States to monitor these conversations. We made a repeated effort on the floor of the Senate

to extend the law. Each and every time we offered to extend the law, an objection was heard from either Senator MCCONNELL or another person on the Republican side. It appears this is not about the security advantage of the United States in fighting terrorism but about some political advantage that if this law appears to lapse, they believe they can make some political gain, I guess. That is the only thing I can deduce is their reason; otherwise, they would have extended this important law, but the decision was made by the Republican leadership not to extend the law. I don't know why. We tried. We will continue to try, and we will continue to try to work out an agreement between the House and the Senate to make certain America is safe.

#### TRAGEDY AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, about 60 miles west of the city of Chicago is the city of DeKalb, IL. DeKalb is a town of great historic importance not only in our State but to our Nation. Many years ago in DeKalb, they invented barbed wire. It sounds like a small matter, but it turned out to be a major part of the settling of the Western part of the United States. The town of DeKalb grew up around the farms that provided not only produce but jobs, and eventually gave birth to a great university: Northern Illinois University. Last night I was at that university. I went into the convocation hall there, to a gathering that was called together to memorialize a terrible tragedy.

On February 14, as this Senate was leaving Washington, we heard word that a shooter had come on campus, gone into a lecture hall and opened fire, wounding a score of students and killing five. It is hard to imagine. It is hard to imagine that a tragedy would take place at that great university. Today, Senator OBAMA and I are introducing a resolution expressing our condolences and the condolences of the Senate to all those affected by this tragedy.

If my colleagues have ever been to that campus, they know that under normal circumstances, it is the picture-perfect American university campus. On any day, you are going to find thousands of students and faculty in their classrooms and research labs, on athletic fields and in the dorms, eating pizza, studying, stuck in front of their computers, going through the happiest moments of their lives. I look back, as many of us do, on my college days, and realize what a good time it was, meeting all those wonderful new people, being challenged, learning so many important things, and making friendships that last a lifetime.

Tragically, for many of those students on the campus of Northern Illinois University on February 14, that atmosphere and that environment changed. They were literally running for the exits of that lecture hall as this

man stood before them, repeatedly firing handguns and a shotgun, killing their fellow students. Within minutes, the campus police were there. No one has questioned the response to this tragedy, nor should they. There was a good plan in place to deal with it. They executed the plan, but when they arrived, it was too late. Students had already been shot and wounded. Five students died and seventeen were wounded. We mourn their loss.

It is interesting, because in a circumstance such as this, we come to know the victims and their families. Gayle Dubowski of Carol Stream, IL. She was a devout member of her church. She sang in the church choir. She worked as a camp counselor and volunteer in rural Kentucky. When her parents went to her dorm room after she had been killed, they found the Bible open on her bed. Her faith was very important to her life.

Catalina Garcia, of Cicero, a first-generation American. Her parents are from Mexico. She wanted to make them proud. She was her family's princess, her family said, and their inspiration. She wanted to be a teacher. She always had a smile on her face. If you saw the photograph they used in most of the newspapers, you saw her beautiful smile.

Julianna Gehant of Mendota, IL. What a great story. She spent 12 years of her life in the U.S. Army, serving overseas and serving her Nation. She was in the Army Reserves. She went on to Northern Illinois to become a teacher.

Ryanne Mace, of Carpentersville, a much-loved only child who was rarely without a smile, and her dream was to be a counselor, to help those in need.

Daniel Parmenter of Westchester, known as "Danny," a 6-foot-5-inch rugby player, known as the gentle giant by all of his friends. He was a man who was sitting in that lecture hall next to his new girlfriend. He was going to give her a silver necklace the day after this shooting. It never happened. He died trying to protect his girlfriend from the gunfire, and she was able to survive.

On February 14, five beautiful lives ended in Cole Hall, a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University. Last night at the gathering there were 10,000 people filling the university center. Senator OBAMA was there. We had four Members of our House delegation from Illinois. I was glad they came: Congressman DON MANZULLO, Congressman PETER ROSKAM, Congresswoman MELISSA BEAN, and Congressman RAHM EMANUEL. The Governor of our State was there and many other State officials.

What struck me as touching was that as soon as we entered this hall, it was to silence; 10,000 people sitting in silence at this memorial tribute. Prayers were offered, as they should be, for the families of those who died and for the families of those who were wounded and are still recovering. They should

not be forgotten. We wish them a speedy recovery. But we also commended the emergency responders, the law enforcement officers, the health care providers. They were there on February 14, and they did what they promised they would do: Everything they could to save lives and heal the wounded. They were trained, they were prepared, and they responded with courage. The toll from this shooting could have been worse if it wasn't for their efforts.

I wish to also acknowledge President John Peters of Northern Illinois University and the entire administration. The program last night was a beautiful program which they organized, but even more important was the work they have done since February 14 to bring that campus back together.

Today, classes resumed at Northern Illinois University. Lessons were being taught. But last night, we gathered at the memorial service to reflect on the lessons of life we have learned from February 14. First, we thanked all those across America who have joined us in expressing sympathy for our loss and solidarity of purpose for our future. From the moment that news spread about this tragedy in DeKalb, IL, America has been standing with the Northern Illinois University community.

This tragedy is a terrible reminder that we in Congress have work to do to make our campuses and our country safer. We need to do all that we can to make schools a safe place. When we grew up, we always thought school was the safest place one could be. Now look what we face.

Last April, Senator OBAMA and I introduced campus safety legislation in response to the Virginia Tech shootings. The Presiding Officer certainly knows the pain and sorrow and the grief that were associated with that tragedy. Key parts of that legislation will reach the President's desk soon as part of the Higher Education Act reauthorization. I hope these new measures Senator OBAMA and I are supporting will allow campuses and universities to think of ways to make those environments safer for students and everyone who visits in the future.

But we also need to take a look at two controversial issues. We need to take a look at gun violence. There is an epidemic of gun violence in our Nation. We have reached the point in Congress where we don't talk about it, or if we do, it is in hushed tones. There is almost a feeling of inevitability that because there are 300 million guns in America, there is nothing we can do about it. We get tied up in political knots, every time we discuss it, about whether we are going too far, infringing on constitutional rights, or whether we are going far enough to spare innocent victims such as these five college students.

In America, every day, we lose 81 people who die from gun violence. 30,000 Americans die every year from