

power in Iran. In a sermon to tens of thousands on Friday, Khamenei said demonstrators must stop their street protests or face the consequences and he firmly backed Ahmadinejad's victory.

"The country belongs to you," Mousavi's latest statement said. "Protesting lies and fraud is your right."

Mousavi's Web site called Monday for supporters to turn on their car lights in the late afternoon as a sign of protest.

Mousavi's latest statements posted on his Web site also warned supporters of danger ahead, and said he would stand by the protesters "at all times." But he said he would "never allow anybody's life to be endangered because of my actions" and called for pursuing fraud claims through an independent board.

The former prime minister, a longtime loyalist of the Islamic government, also called the Basij and military "our brothers" and "protectors of our revolution and regime." He may be trying to constrain his followers' demands before they pose a mortal threat to Iran's system of limited democracy constrained by Shiite clerics, who have ultimate authority.

Mousavi ally and former president Mohammad Khatami said in a statement that "protest in a civil manner and avoiding disturbances in the definite right of the people and all must respect that."

Britain's Foreign Office said it was pulling staffers' dependents out because "the families of our staff have been unable to carry out their lives as usual."

In Washington, President Barack Obama said he does not want to become a scapegoat for Iran's leadership as the postelection upheaval continues, but Republicans continued criticizing him for being overly cautious.

The Czech EU presidency summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to reject claims by Iran that the 27-nation bloc has been interfering in its internal affairs.

Iran state media reported at least 10 people were killed in the fiercest clashes yet on Saturday and 100 were injured.

A graphic video that appears to show a young woman dying within minutes after she was shot during Saturday's demonstrations has become the iconic image seen by millions around the world on video-sharing sites such as YouTube.

Police said Monday that 457 people were arrested on Saturday alone, but did not say how many have been arrested throughout the week of turmoil.

The country's highest electoral authority agreed last week to investigate some opposition complaints of problems in the voting. The Guardian Council said Monday it found irregularities in 50 voting districts, but that this has no effect on election outcome. Council spokesman Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei was quoted on the state TV Web site as saying that its probe showed more votes were cast in these constituencies than there were registered voters.

But this "has no effect on the result of the elections," he said.

Mousavi has demanded that the election result be annulled and a new vote held.

Khatami said "taking complaints to bodies that are required to protect people's rights, but are themselves subject to criticism, is not a solution"—effectively accusing the Council of collusion in vote fraud.

The government has intensified a crackdown on independent media—expelling a BBC correspondent, suspending the Dubai-based network Al-Arabiya and detaining at least two local journalists for U.S. magazines.

English-language state television said an exile group known as the People's Mujahedeen had a hand in the street violence and

broadcast what it said were confessions of British-controlled agents.

The exile group, also called the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, is the military wing of the Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran. The council says it is dedicated to a democratic, secular government in Iran, but the military wing has been blacklisted by the United States and the European Union as a terrorist organization.

The Foreign Ministry lashed out at foreign media and Western governments, with ministry spokesman Hasan Qashqavi accusing them of "a racial mentality that Iranians belong to the Third World."

"Meddling by Western powers and international media is unacceptable," he said at a news conference shown on state TV, taking particular aim at French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

"How can a Western president, like the French president, ask for nullification of Iranian election results?" Qashqavi said. "I regret such comments."

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to talk a bit about health care, since that seems to be a major issue also of concern to all Americans. Today is June 22, 2009. Millions of Americans still lack health insurance coverage, and we need to pass reforms that help them get coverage. Yet more time has gone by with no plan from the majority. While we wait, how many more people will forgo needed care today? How many emergency rooms will have to care for Americans who could have received care earlier, and at a lower cost, from a medical professional if they had insurance?

The majority talks about reform and how critical it is to move with urgency. They also assert that the economic recovery depends on health care reform. So many of us would like to know: Where is the plan? It is impossible for us to move forward in any manner, let alone with urgency, if we do not even have a complete bill.

On Tuesday June 9, after months of waiting, the majority in the HELP Committee, on which I serve, offered a partial list of health reform proposals, indicating that the missing pieces would be shortly forthcoming. The majority quickly pulled together a roundtable to discuss a wide variety of issues. They even held some walk-throughs with our side on issues of prevention, quality, et cetera.

The following week we were told we would receive the missing pieces "soon" or "early last week." Then we were told they would come forward with the missing pieces "this past Friday."

Now it is Monday and we have received nothing. While we have waited, the Congressional Budget Office told us what many of us had expected and feared about this bill: The cost of the bill would have a cost exponentially higher than many had predicted. In fact, the incomplete bill would cost over \$1 trillion, and this cost would only cover one-third of the 48 million Americans who are currently uninsured.

So we wait and wait and wait, having no details of the much-wanted government plan or the proposal regarding penalties the other side wants to impose on employers who either cannot provide health coverage or who are not able to provide the coverage according to the government dictate.

Now we hear this Friday might be the day we have a chance to see what they have been working on behind closed doors. Friday also happens to be the day of the Fourth of July recess. The President and congressional Democrats have told the American people that health care reform legislation must be passed by the Senate prior to the August recess.

Given that we will not have the text of the legislation prior to the Fourth of July recess, I am skeptical that the HELP Committee and the Finance Committee will be able to complete their work, combine two possibly divergent bills on the Senate floor, and pass a bill during the 5 weeks remaining in the July work session.

One thing I have found out around here is that we miss a lot of things, but we never miss a recess. The Senate passed the budget blueprint in late April. That included a possible budget reconciliation process for considering health care reform legislation.

One must wonder. One must wonder if the majority is intentionally pushing back the schedule and dragging out this process so that a bipartisan process and solution is not feasible. Under budget reconciliation, which sounds arcane to most Americans, the majority would be allowed to jam this important policy through the Senate with 51 votes instead of the typical 60, with limited time for debate and amendments.

I am left to wonder if this contingency was not planned on all along, to use reconciliation, to muscle through the health reform we all know is desperately needed but to circumvent the normal procedures of the Senate.

I and my colleagues on this side of the aisle continue to await the Democrats' complete bill and their plan to make taxpayers pay for this trillion dollar new government program. So many questions remain until the missing parts of the bill are provided.

When will we get details of the government insurance plan we are told is essential to reform? When will we see what employer health care mandates look like? How much will the complete plan cost? How will it be paid for? Each day the majority fails to provide a complete plan, along with the complete cost and how it will be paid for, is another day that millions of Americans go without health insurance.

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. DORGAN. 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.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for as much time as I consume.

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

HEALTH CARE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as this country tries to pull itself out of a very significant economic crisis in which millions of Americans have lost their jobs, lost their homes, lost hope, there are a number of things we have to do that also threaten the future of this country, in addition to trying to restore some economic health, and those include health care to be sure—we are working on this issue of health care; the second is an energy policy that makes us less dependent on foreign oil, where we are far too vulnerable and far too dependent; and the third is the relentless march of increased Federal budget deficits. All three of these issues, in my judgment, threaten our country's future. I wish to speak about them in the coming days. Today, I wish to talk about health care specifically.

Let me again say, I do that with the understanding that first and foremost we have to pull this country out of the difficulties we are in with the general economy and try to find ways to promote economic growth and put people back to work with jobs that pay well and give them the opportunity to care for their families. That is what gets America moving again. But when we do that, when we begin to restore this economy to economic health, the vulnerabilities that will remain are health care, energy, and the Federal budget deficits far into the future. So let me talk about health care just a bit.

I know there is a lot of discussion in the committees, the two relevant committees, the Finance Committee and the so-called HELP Committee, both of which are writing pieces of the health care reform bill.

It is true that increased health care costs—the increased cost of insurance for families, businesses, and governments—are on the march. Now it consumes over 17 percent of the domestic product of this country. Of all the goods and services we produce, over 17 percent of that is consumed by health care. And the rate of increase is unsustainable. Families will not be able to pay the extra cost year after year after year. We are told that nationally it now costs about \$12,000 for a family health insurance policy.

So what do we do about this? Well, we hear a lot of discussion on the floor of the Senate, when we start talking about health care, where people will say: Well, now you are talking about a government-run health care system in which a bureaucrat is going to make decisions about how much treatment

your doctor can provide to you personally.

That is just absurd. That is not what this discussion is about. But if we can get back to some thoughtful discussion rather than thoughtless discussion on health care, maybe we can all reach an agreement of how to improve this system. I personally think this system needs improving. Let me describe some things I think we should do.

First of all, we do not have a health care system so much as we have a sick care system. We do not pay any attention in this country to the things that can keep you from being sick or getting sick; we just pay a lot of money to put you into acute-care beds once you have gotten sick. That makes no sense at all. We ought to change the entire model to say it is much, much less costly to do the preventive things than it is to pay for acute-care beds in a hospital once someone gets sick.

This is all about behavior in many respects, and nobody wants to talk much about that. But behavior is a very important part of this. We are told that two-thirds of the American people are overweight and one-third are obese. Just that alone imposes unbelievable costs on this health care system of ours.

By the way, attendant to that issue of obesity and being overweight is the march of diabetes. The incidence of diabetes in this country is unbelievable. It just ratchets up and up and up every year.

Now, you wonder about that, wonder about America's children and the number of children who are overweight and obese. Walk into a school and then find out that in a number of schools in our country, they have decided to make money by allowing the soda machines, the pop machines, from the largest manufacturers in this country to sell Coke and Pepsi and other soft drinks in the school hallways. You can buy not only a soft drink full of sugar, you can then buy, perhaps, a bag of Doritos to go with it in the middle of the afternoon at school. So what kind of message is that in a country in which a substantial number of the people—especially children—are vastly overweight and in which we, by the way, minimize physical fitness in our schools because we have become very obsessed—and necessarily so—we care now more about math and sciences and getting out of our school system more engineers, more people steeped in the maths and sciences. But should that be at the expense of physical fitness? What kind of a brain is walking around without a physical being to propel it? How about some physical fitness in our schools? How about moving soda machines or the soft drink machines and the Doritos and Cheetos out of the school hallways? Those things are just common sense. It is about personal behavior, and it is about what we do in this country.

By the way, the reason those machines are there is, if they can put ma-

chines in the hallways of schools, the companies will provide money to the schools. So that is how we are going to fund our school system these days—through soft drinks and chips? It does not make much sense to me.

With respect to this issue of personal responsibility and behavior, let me describe a meeting we held about a week and a half ago with the CEO of Safeway corporation. I know he has met with groups of Republicans and Democrats here in the Congress. He said something very interesting, and I am using numbers that I think approximate what he said. They may not be precise, but I believe he told us there are between 40,000 and 50,000 employees at Safeway corporation who are non-union. He began a project with those 40,000 and 50,000 people in health care, and now he is beginning to try to move that into the union contracts.

Here is the project. That company says to its employees: I want responsibility for four areas in exchange for lower cost health insurance. We believe behavior is an important part of controlling health care costs. No. 1, if you have high blood pressure, we want you taking medicine to control your high blood pressure. No. 2, if you have high cholesterol, we want you taking medicine to control your high cholesterol. And I believe he said the company is paying for that. No. 3, if you are smoking, you have to have stopped or be on a program to stop. No. 4, if you are overweight, you have to be on a program to deal with that issue.

Cholesterol, high blood pressure, weight, and smoking—in each case, from a baseline of the cost of health insurance policies, those who are engaged in behavior that addresses these four issues have gradations of lesser costs for their health insurance premiums. In other words, it is about personal behavior and taking responsibility for addressing the things that can keep you healthy.

He indicated to us that they have had flat costs for 5 years in that body of employees dealing with this criteria in health care. That is a success. If that is the model he is using, saying: You have a responsibility.

By the way, even in their cafeteria, where they have partially subsidized company food during the lunch hours, just as an example, he said: We still serve unhealthy things. But we charge much, much more for it—once again trying to induce the behavior to take a healthy alternative.

So I think what Steve Burd, the CEO of Safeway, has suggested represents something we need to consider as we write our health care legislation.

There is another element that was brought to my attention recently and I think has been brought to the President's attention and Members of the Congress, and that is a New Yorker article written by Atul Gawande, a doctor from Harvard. He visited McAllen, TX, and El Paso, TX, and wondered why in one city you have the highest