

been heavily involved in the issues of the U.N. We need an ambassador who has the trust of the President and the Secretary of State. Mr. Bolton, it seems to me, has what it takes for the job.

I am reminded, on the judges issue and in this issue, elections do have consequences. I believe there are significant numbers of the American people who do take into consideration the consequences of a Presidential election, and that is the earned right of a President, under anything other than unusual circumstances, to pick his team. There were nominees of the previous Clinton administration I didn't agree with, I would not have selected but because President Clinton was elected President, I voted for his nominees on that basis.

The U.N. is a vital organization to the world and to the national interests of the United States. It is not perfect by any means, and John Bolton knows this. There has been talk that the nomination of Mr. Bolton was an indication of the administration's disdain for multilateral diplomacy. I cannot believe Mr. Bolton wishes to be dispatched for 4 years to an ineffective body, unloved by the United States. I do believe he wants to work actively to reform the U.N., make it stronger and better. Mr. Bolton, seeing clearly the U.N.'s strengths and its weaknesses, will be well positioned to improve the organization and America's relationship with him.

As the Chair well knows, what kind of a U.N. is it that has Libya, Cuba, and Zimbabwe as part of its Human Rights Commission? Is it all right with the U.N. today? We are seeing more and more indications of the Oil-for-Food scandal which, again, the Senator from Minnesota, the Chair, has carefully examined. There is a crying need for reform.

I am pleased the Secretary General of the U.N. has made proposals for reform. I support those and believe perhaps we need more. Again, it seems to me Mr. Bolton sees clearly the strengths and weaknesses, and he would be well positioned to help in this reform effort. Let's not forget that it desperately needs improving. It is hard to take an organization that has countries such as I mentioned that are members of the Human Rights Commission or whose General Assembly equates Zionism with racism. But at the moment, a great opportunity presents itself. The panel named by the Secretary General, on which one of my most respected Americans and beloved Americans, Brent Scowcroft, served, has recently issued its list of recommendations to transform the U.N. Kofi Annan has presented his own serious plan to implement these recommendations.

In other words, I argue that right now the U.N. is in a unique moment, perhaps, in its history; and because of the scandals associated with it, it is open to reform. We need a strong per-

sonality, in my view, and a knowledgeable one to help bring about those reforms.

But without hard work and pressure, nothing will happen. Over the years, the U.N. has proven itself to be remarkably resistant to change. I believe John Bolton could provide the medicine the United Nations needs.

As I mentioned earlier, elections have consequences, and one consequence of President Bush's reelection is he actually should have the right to select officials of his choice. I stress this because the President nominates not the Democrats' selection, nor mine, nor that of any other Senator, but his own choice. I mentioned that when President Clinton was elected, I didn't share the policy views of some of the officials he nominated, but I voted to confirm them, knowing the President has a right to put into place the team he believes will serve him best.

The Foreign Relations Committee is examining whether Mr. Bolton has engaged in truly unacceptable behavior that would disqualify him for office. I believe, unless we see a pattern of inappropriate conduct—which so far I have not—I believe the Senate must move forward expeditiously to confirm John Bolton as America's ambassador to the United Nations.

Mr. President, as I criticize some of the activities of the U.N., there are other activities of the U.N. going on as we speak that I think require America's presence. The situation in Darfur, Sudan, for example, is one that cries out for American participation in the decisionmaking process because one could draw a scenario where under extreme circumstances, to prevent genocide, American troops, or certainly American support in the form of logistics and other areas, could be heavily involved, as well as expenditure of American tax dollars, which already constitutes a significant portion of the financing of the United Nations.

So I hope we can set a time and date certain for a vote on Mr. Bolton. As I said, if somebody has information that would disqualify him, that is fine. I don't think he or anybody else deserves a long, drawn-out, exhausting process which damages our ability to participate in the U.N. and also may damage the character of a good man.

I hope we will act as expeditiously as possible. I have great respect for the Foreign Relations Committee and its chairman, Senator LUGAR, all members, and the ranking member, Senator BIDEN. But I certainly hope they realize inordinate delay is not healthy. I, having had the opportunity of knowing Mr. Bolton for many years, believe he would do an outstanding job as our ambassador to the United Nations.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume the pending business, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's licenses and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Ensign amendment No. 487, to provide for additional border patrol agents for the remainder of fiscal year 2005.

Bayh amendment No. 520, to appropriate an additional \$213,000,000 for Other Procurement, Army, for the procurement of Up-Armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (UAHMMWVs).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 15 minutes equally divided. Who yields time?

The Senator from Massachusetts.

AMENDMENT NO. 520

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I yield myself 3 minutes.

In December, just a few months ago, the Secretary of Defense on a visit to Iraq was asked by a soldier why our troops were sent into battle with unarmored vehicles.

It was a question on the minds of many Americans—especially those with sons, daughters, husbands, wives, friends, and neighbors who had answered their country's call and whose lives are on the line every day in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The American people are appalled that our troops have had to fend for themselves by strapping plywood and scrap metal onto their vehicles. Our troops call them "cardboard coffins." As one soldier who served in Iraq said, "I would feel safer in a Volvo than I would in one of these (unarmored) Humvees."

But month after month, the Pentagon has failed to provide enough armored Humvees to meet the urgent security needs of our troops on dangerous patrols in Iraq. On nine different occasions, we have asked the Pentagon for their requirements for armored Humvees, and nine times they have been wrong.

An now the Pentagon actually wants to decrease the production of armored Humvees.

Tell that to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and they'll let you know how irresponsible that is—just as they told Secretary Rumsfeld on his trip to Iraq in December.

Tell that to the family of James Sherill, a Kentucky National Guardsman who was killed in an unarmored vehicle just this month.

Tell that to the families in Massachusetts who have lost loved ones in Iraq.

Tell that to the tens of thousands of dedicated men and women in uniform about to serve their second and third tours there. Tell them they may have to ride into the danger zone yet again without enough armor.

We know that American companies can produce more.

Armor Holdings—the company that puts the armor on the armored Humvee—told my office this morning that its current contract with the Army will mean sharp reductions in production. Right now, they provide 550 armored Humvees a month. Their current Army contract calls for only 239 in June, zero in July, 40 in August, and 71 in September. The company is negotiating with the Army for slightly higher levels of production for June, July, and August, but it still expects to decrease production to 71 by September.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. KENNEDY. I will take another minute.

We cannot let the Department of Defense get it wrong for the tenth time. For the sake of our troops we need to get it right.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from the Department of Defense to Senator INOUE that says:

To sustain production at the maximum capacity through the end of FY05, the Army would need an additional funding of approximately \$213 million.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, OFFICE
OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF,
G-3/5/7,

Washington, DC.

Hon. DANIEL K. INOUE,
Ranking Minority Member, Subcommittee on
Defense, Committee on Appropriations, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR INOUE: Greatly appreciate your outstanding support as you work your way through the FY05 supplemental request. Understand you are receiving several inquiries regarding Up-Armored HMMWVs (UAH). To lend clarity to Army requirements for the UAH in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), we provide the following information.

The current GWOT requirement for UAH is 10,079. The amount already appropriated and supported in reprogramming actions funds 4,528 UAHs in FY05 enabling the Army to meet the 10,079 requirement in June 05 with no additional funding.

We currently are producing at the manufacturer's maximum capacity of 550 per month. This will continue through June 05, at which time production rates will decline. To sustain production at the maximum capacity through the end of FY05, the Army would need additional funding of approximately \$213 million; however, this sum is not necessary to address the extant requirement.

Thank you very much for your hard work and fast action on the supplemental bill.

Your dedication to our men and women in uniform, and their families, is deeply valued.
Sincerely,

DAVID F. MELCHER,
Lieutenant General,
U.S. Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8.

JAMES J. LOVELACE,
Lieutenant General,
U.S. Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3.

Mr. KENNEDY. The House of Representatives added 232. This amendment is to do what the Department of Defense says is necessary to keep the production line going. I hope it will be accepted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time? The Senator from New Jersey.

AMENDMENT NO. 368, AS MODIFIED

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, amendment No. 368, as modified, was accepted by both sides on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee last night before a unanimous consent agreement, not in time for inclusion in the managers' amendment. I therefore ask unanimous consent to lay aside the pending amendment so I may call up amendment No. 368, as modified, and ask unanimous consent this amendment be adopted.

Senator BROWNBACK, Senator DEWINE, and others are on this amendment as well, which is funding for the Darfur peacekeeping operations as well as disaster assistance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, this is an amendment we worked on for a long time, a Darfur amendment, \$50 million for peacekeepers, \$40 million for food aid. It was agreed to but not in the managers' package last night. We do ask unanimous consent this be brought up and we will be asking for a voice vote on it. It has broad bipartisan support.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, this is an amendment that will clearly save lives. It is the right thing to do and I join my colleagues in asking it be passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, we have no objection to the amendment being called up. We have discussed the amendment with the Senator from New Jersey and the Senators from Kansas and Ohio. We have no objection to proceeding to consider the amendment.

Mr. CORZINE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

Mr. COCHRAN. We are not going to join that request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Jersey [Mr. CORZINE] for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. OBAMA, proposes an amendment numbered 368, as modified.

Mr. COCHRAN. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 183, after line 23, add the following:

SUDAN

SEC. . Of the funds appropriated in this Act for "Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities", \$90,500,000 may be made available for assistance for Darfur, Sudan: *Provided*, That within these amounts, \$50,000,000 may be transferred to "Peacekeeping Operations" for support of the efforts of the African Union to halt genocide and other atrocities in Darfur, Sudan; *Provided further*, That \$40,500,000 may be transferred to "International Disaster and Famine Assistance" for assistance for Darfur, Sudan and other African countries.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the amendment, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 368), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to offer an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KENNEDY. Reserving the right to object, I do not intend to object, but I thought we had a brief time for discussion of this amendment. That is what I heard the unanimous consent agreement was, for 15 minutes. That is what I thought we were going to debate and vote on at a quarter of. That is the only reason I raise this objection because there was a unanimous consent.

If the Senator wants to complete a brief unanimous consent request, I will not object, but I hope if there are arguments against this amendment, we will be able to hear them. We are prepared to put some more arguments out there on the table.

Mr. CRAIG. I appreciate the concern of the Senator. I believe the amendment I am sending to the desk has been agreed to on both sides. There is a second degree. We should be able to move very quickly through it.

Mr. KENNEDY. I have no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 564

Mr. CRAIG. I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] for himself and Mr. AKAKA, proposes an amendment numbered 564.

Mr. CRAIG. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a traumatic injury protection rider to servicemembers insured under section 1967(a)(1) of such title)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TRAUMATIC INJURY PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 19, Title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1965, by adding at the end the following:

“(11) The term ‘activities of daily living’ means the inability to independently perform 2 of the 6 following functions:

“(A) Bathing.

“(B) Continence.

“(C) Dressing.

“(D) Eating.

“(E) Toileting.

“(F) Transferring.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“§ 1980A. Traumatic injury protection

“(a) A member who is insured under subparagraph (A)(i), (B), or (C)(i) of section 1967(a)(1) shall automatically be issued a traumatic injury protection rider that will provide for a payment not to exceed \$100,000 if the member, while so insured, sustains a traumatic injury that results in a loss described in subsection (b)(1). The maximum amount payable for all injuries resulting from the same traumatic event shall be limited to \$100,000. If a member suffers more than 1 such loss as a result of traumatic injury, payment will be made in accordance with the schedule in subsection (d) for the single loss providing the highest payment.

“(b)(1) A member who is issued a traumatic injury protection rider under subsection (a) is insured against such traumatic injuries, as prescribed by the Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, including, but not limited to—

“(A) total and permanent loss of sight;

“(B) loss of a hand or foot by severance at or above the wrist or ankle;

“(C) total and permanent loss of speech;

“(D) total and permanent loss of hearing in both ears;

“(E) loss of thumb and index finger of the same hand by severance at or above the metacarpophalangeal joints;

“(F) quadriplegia, paraplegia, or hemiplegia;

“(G) burns greater than second degree, covering 30 percent of the body or 30 percent of the face; and

“(H) coma or the inability to carry out the activities of daily living resulting from traumatic injury to the brain.

“(2) For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘quadriplegia’ means the complete and irreversible paralysis of all 4 limbs;

“(B) the term ‘paraplegia’ means the complete and irreversible paralysis of both lower limbs; and

“(C) the term ‘hemiplegia’ means the complete and irreversible paralysis of the upper and lower limbs on 1 side of the body.

“(3) The Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, shall prescribe, by regulation, the conditions under which coverage against loss will not be provided.

“(c) A payment under this section may be made only if—

“(1) the member is insured under Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance when the traumatic injury is sustained;

“(2) the loss results directly from that traumatic injury and from no other cause; and

“(3) the member suffers the loss before the end of the period prescribed by the Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, which begins on the date on which the member sustains the traumatic injury, except, if the loss is quadriplegia, paraplegia, or hemiplegia, the member suffers the loss not later than 365 days after sustaining the traumatic injury.

“(d) Payments under this section for losses described in subsection (b)(1) shall be—

“(1) made in accordance with a schedule prescribed by the Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense;

“(2) based on the severity of the covered condition; and

“(3) in an amount that is equal to not less than \$25,000 and not more than \$100,000.

“(e)(1) During any period in which a member is insured under this section and the member is on active duty, there shall be deducted each month from the member’s basic or other pay until separation or release from active duty an amount determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as the premium allocable to the pay period for providing traumatic injury protection under this section (which shall be the same for all such members) as the share of the cost attributable to provided coverage under this section, less any costs traceable to the extra hazards of such duty in the uniformed services.

“(2) During any month in which a member is assigned to the Ready Reserve of a uniformed service under conditions which meet the qualifications set forth in section 1965(5)(B) of this title and is insured under a policy of insurance purchased by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 1966 of this title, there shall be contributed from the appropriation made for active duty pay of the uniformed service concerned an amount determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (which shall be the same for all such members) as the share of the cost attributable to provided coverage under this section, less any costs traceable to the extra hazards of such duty in the uniformed services. Any amounts so contributed on behalf of any member shall be collected by the Secretary of the concerned service from such member (by deduction from pay or otherwise) and shall be credited to the appropriation from which such contribution was made in advance on a monthly basis.

“(3) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall determine the premium amounts to be charged for traumatic injury protection coverage provided under this section.

“(4) The premium amounts shall be determined on the basis of sound actuarial principles and shall include an amount necessary to cover the administrative costs to the insurer or insurers providing such insurance.

“(5) Each premium rate for the first policy year shall be continued for subsequent policy years, except that the rate may be adjusted for any such subsequent policy year on the basis of the experience under the policy, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in advance of that policy year.

“(6) The cost attributable to insuring such member under this section, less the premiums deducted from the pay of the member’s uniformed service, shall be paid by the Secretary of Defense to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. This amount shall be paid on a monthly basis, and shall be due within 10 days of the notice provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Secretary of the concerned uniformed service.

“(7) The Secretary of Defense shall provide the amount of appropriations required to pay expected claims in a policy year, as determined according to sound actuarial principles by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(8) The Secretary of Defense shall forward an amount to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that is equivalent to half the anticipated cost of claims for the current fiscal year, upon the effective date of this legislation.

“(f) The Secretary of Defense shall certify whether any member claiming the benefit under this section is eligible.

“(g) Payment for a loss resulting from traumatic injury will not be made if the member dies before the end of the period prescribed by the Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, which begins on the date on which the member sustains the injury. If the member dies before payment to the member can be made, the payment will be made according to the member’s most current beneficiary designation under Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance, or a by law designation, if applicable.

“(h) Coverage for loss resulting from traumatic injury provided under this section shall cease at midnight on the date of the member’s separation from the uniformed service. Payment will not be made for any loss resulting from injury incurred after the date a member is separated from the uniformed services.

“(i) Insurance coverage provided under this section is not convertible to Veterans’ Group Life Insurance.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 19 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 1980 the following:

“1980A. Traumatic injury protection.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the first day of the first month beginning more than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) RULEMAKING.—Before the effective date described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, shall issue regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 551 TO AMENDMENT NO. 564

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the second-degree amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE] proposes an amendment numbered 551 to amendment No. 564.

Mr. DEWINE. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To make the traumatic injury insurance provision retroactive for servicemembers injured in Iraq)

On page 8, line 16, strike “(c)” and insert the following:

(c) RETROACTIVE PROVISION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any member who experienced a traumatic injury (as described in section 1980A(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code) between October 7, 2001, and the effective date under subsection (d), is eligible for coverage provided in such section 1980A if the qualifying loss was a direct result of injuries incurred in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

(2) CERTIFICATION; PAYMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

(A) certify to the Office of Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance the names and addresses of those members the Secretary of Defense determines to be eligible for retroactive traumatic injury benefits under such section 1980A; and

(B) forward to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, at the time the certification is made

under subparagraph (A), an amount of money equal to the amount the Secretary of Defense determines to be necessary to pay all cost related to claims for retroactive benefits under such section 1980A.

(d)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the second-degree amendment? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 551) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 564, AS AMENDED

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, prior to a vote on the amendment as amended, I would like to speak for up to 3 minutes.

I have sought recognition to comment on an amendment I have offered to address a tremendous gap in coverage that exists in our treatment of the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen, who are fighting for our country. My amendment addresses that coverage gap through the creation of a new "Traumatic Injury Protection" insurance program for the benefit of severely disabled servicemembers. But before I describe my amendment, let me further discuss the nature of the problem my amendment would attend to.

It is widely known that due to incredible advances in medicine, servicemembers who may not have survived life-threatening injuries in previous wars are now making it back home from Iraq and Afghanistan alive. That is the good news. The bad news, however, is that they must live with injuries that may have left them without their limbs, sight, hearing, speech, or ability to even move.

All of my colleagues have likely met with these brave men and women in their home States, or right here in Washington, DC, at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. They are fighting for their lives. They are attempting to learn through physical and occupational therapy how to reintegrate back into society. Needless to say, relearning things I and my colleagues take for granted every day—how to walk, how to read, how to simply make breakfast in the morning—can take months or, quite possibly, years.

It is during this rehabilitation period at military hospitals that the need for additional financial resources is most acute. For many Guard and Reserve members at Walter Reed, they already have foregone higher paying civilian jobs prior to their deployment. Lengthy recovery periods simply add to the financial strain they bear. In addition, family members of injured soldiers bear the burdens necessary to travel from great distances to provide the love and emotional support that is absolutely essential for any successful rehabilitation. Spouses quit jobs to spend time with their husbands at the hospital. Parents spare no expense to be with their injured children.

To meet these needs, my amendment would create a "Traumatic Injury Protection" insurance rider as part of the

existing Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Program. The traumatic insurance would provide coverage for severely disabling conditions at a cost of approximately \$1 a month for participating servicemembers. The payment for those suffering a severe disability would be immediate and would range from \$25,000 to a maximum of \$100,000. The purpose of the immediate payment would be to give injured servicemembers and their families the financial cushion they need to sustain them before their medical discharge from service when veterans' benefits would kick in.

The traumatic injuries covered under my amendment include: total and permanent loss of sight; loss of hands or feet; total and permanent loss of speech; total and permanent loss of hearing; quadriplegia; paraplegia; burns greater than second degree, covering 30 percent of the body or face; and certain traumatic brain injuries.

The cost of the amendment is entirely reasonable given the cause. Informal CBO estimates put the FY2006 cost at \$10 million. A very small price to pay to meet the needs of these wounded warriors.

I cannot take credit for the idea behind this amendment. The credit must go to disabled veterans of the Wounded Warrior Project, run under the aegis of the United Spinal Association. Three Wounded Warrior veterans of the Iraq war visited my office last week to discuss the need to provide this type of an insurance benefit. One veteran, former Army SSG Heath Calhoun, had both of his legs amputated after being struck during a rocket propelled grenade attack in Iraq. Heath and his wife, Tiffany, who was present with him in my office, described the financial problems they endured after Tiffany quit her job to be with Heath during his convalescence. It took over a year before Heath was medically discharged from service. While the Calhoun family was able to make it through that extremely trying period, Heath told me he was adamant that other servicemembers in Iraq should not have to worry about finances should they, too, be injured. The quickest way to accomplish that, he told me, was to add a disability insurance rider—financed by servicemembers through monthly premium deductions—to the existing life insurance program. I am honored to sponsor this amendment in the Senate on his, and the other veterans of the Wounded Warrior Project's, behalf. I would also like to personally complement Ryan Kelly, who also visited me last week. Mr. Kelly lost his right leg during an ambush near Baghdad almost 21 months ago. I am told he was a principal author of the draft legislation that culminated in the amendment I offer today. I thank him for his fine work.

I also want to thank President Bush and his top administration officials for lending their support to this amendment. Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Jim Nicholson, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, and their staffs, who provided invaluable technical support in the drafting of this amendment.

And most importantly, I want to thank my partner in this effort, the Committee's ranking member, Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA. I thank him for co-sponsoring the amendment, and I thank him for joining me in a spirit of bipartisanship as we seek to serve veterans together.

The supplemental already would make substantial improvements to benefits provided to survivors of those killed in the line of duty. I applaud those efforts. But I also remind my colleagues that we must be vigilant in our care for those who are still fighting to regain the normalcy of the lives they enjoyed prior to sustaining catastrophic injuries in defense of our freedom. I ask for your support.

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I speak in favor of the amendment offered by the distinguished chairman and ranking member of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

A few weeks ago, I met with Sergeants Ryan Kelly, Jeremy Feldbusch, and Heath Calhoun, all of whom had recently returned from Iraq. They served their country bravely in battle, and in doing so, each of these men sustained a disabling injury that will change their lives forever.

When they came home, it would have been easy for them to go about their own business or feel sorry for themselves.

But they did not. Instead, they decided that their service to our country would not end on the battlefields of Iraq. They would speak out for their fellow soldiers—the ones who also may come home without a leg, or an arm, or their sight, but may not have the resources to carry on and support their families.

This amendment is their tribute to their brothers and sisters-in-arms.

For only about \$3 per month, it allows service members to purchase group disability insurance that would award them a maximum of \$100,000 if they are deemed seriously injured. For disabled veterans who may not be able to work when they come home, this insurance could help them obtain long-term care, send their kids to school, or simply make sure that they can pay the bills and still put food on the table. It won't cost the Government a dime. It simply needs our approval to allow it to happen.

The blessings of modern technology have saved the lives of many service members who would otherwise have died from their wounds. Yet, it also means there will be more wounded who need care. Every single one of us has a fundamental moral duty to take care of those men and women who've sacrificed to safeguard our freedom. This amendment offers us one way to do that, and I thank Senators CRAIG and AKAKA for their cooperation in moving this issue forward.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am pleased to support this important and timely amendment.

This amendment will go far to ease the financial burden that is placed on a service member and his or her loved ones as a result of traumatic injury. Between \$25,000 and \$100,000 will be paid to service members who suffer such injuries based on severity of injury.

Service members and their families face heavy financial burdens while hospitalized, and prior to being medically discharged from the military. This effort will help lessen the burden that exists on service members and their families before VA benefits kick in.

Importantly, to qualify for this necessary benefit, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines do not have to do any additional paperwork. They are automatically enrolled in this program by virtue of being a participant in the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Program.

The insurance premium will cost the service member approximately \$1 a month and will be determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

This insurance policy is meant to supplement, and not take the place of, existing DoD and VA benefits. This amendment is intended to fill a gap: assistance to service members and their families during recovery from a traumatic injury. In no way should anyone view this as a precedence for shifting costs to a service member.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 564), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. CRAIG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. I thank the Senator from Massachusetts for his consideration, most importantly the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee for his cooperation, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee for his understanding and work with his staff. As chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, this was truly a team effort. Working with my colleague from Ohio, Senator DEWINE, we have accomplished something for America's veterans, especially those very traumatically injured, that I think is critical and necessary.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will speak briefly. If this time is taken from the time scheduled for a vote at 3:45, I ask unanimous consent whatever time I use extend the vote that amount of time.

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

THE COURAGE OF SENATOR INOUE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we all have the good fortune of serving in this body with some outstanding men and women, but I don't think it is an exaggeration to say DAN INOUE is a step above us all. He is a man for whom I have the greatest admiration, for many different reasons.

Sixty years ago today, on April 21, 1945, DAN INOUE paid an incredible price protecting the freedom of our country and the people of the world. Senator DANIEL K. INOUE showed during World War II what kind of a man he is.

He was born to Japanese immigrant parents in Honolulu. He witnessed the bombing of Pearl Harbor when he was 17 years old. But he did not stand by. He rushed in, provided aid to American troops. This was the beginning of his service to our country.

I will read now from his Medal of Honor citation which was received for actions this day 60 years ago, when Senator INOUE and his men were in Italy, trying to capture a key mountain ridge.

The citation reads:

With complete disregard for his personal safety, Second Lieutenant Inouye crawled up the treacherous slope to within five yards of the nearest machine gun and hurled two grenades, destroying the emplacement. Before the enemy could retaliate, he stood up and neutralized a second machine gun nest. Although wounded by a sniper's bullet, he continued to engage other hostile positions at close range until an exploding grenade shattered his right arm. Despite the intense pain, he refused evacuation and continued to direct his platoon until enemy resistance was broken and his men were again deployed in defensive positions.

Senator INOUE lost his arm and received other grievous wounds that day defending our freedom. It tells us something about this man, his courage and his heroism.

We serve with him every day. He is quiet, unassuming, but he is a real hero. He refused to let anything hold him back, in spite of his serious injuries, spending years in the hospital. Following that war, he went to the University of Hawaii, George Washington School of Law. He was elected to the House of Representatives, and now is the third most senior Member of the Senate. Throughout his life and his service, DAN INOUE has proven himself a man of courage.

I am, with all Members in this Senate, Democrats and Republicans, proud to call him a friend and a colleague. He gave so much to our country so long ago but to this day he keeps on giving. We could all learn a lesson from this great American.

Mr. WARNER. I wish to commend the distinguished Senator for those remarks. I humbly ask the privilege of being associated with the remarks he made.

Senator INOUE has been one of the most extraordinary leaders I have had the privilege to serve with in my career

in the Senate. I thank him and I thank the Senator from Nevada.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. I don't know how the time is allocated, but I will take 2 or 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes 39 seconds.

AMENDMENT NO. 520

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, from April of this year, 2005, the GAO report. There are two primary causes for the shortages of up-armored vehicles and add-on armor kits: First, a decision was made to pace production rather than use the maximum available capacity; two, funding allocations did not keep up with rapidly increasing requirements.

Army officials have not identified any long-term effort to improve the availability of up-armored Humvees or add-on armor kits.

The Department of the Army itself says now we are currently producing the 550, they will continue through June 2005, at which the production rates decline. To sustain production at the maximum capacity, the Army would need funding at 213. That is exactly what ours does.

If we did not include that, we see the dramatic production in the capacity and in the development of that.

Why are we doing that? Nine times the Army appeared before the Armed Services Committee; nine times they underestimated the needs.

A third of the 35 of the young men from my State of Massachusetts have lost their lives because of the lack of up-armor.

All we are asking, take it to the conference, 230. The House of Representatives saw that. Why doesn't the Senate of the United States? I hope we would have support for that amendment and let them work it out in the conference. Let's make sure we are going to do what needs to be done. We have seen the mistakes of the past. Let's not make another one today.

Mr. COCHRAN. How much time remains under the order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi has 2½ minutes. That is all the time that is available.

Mr. COCHRAN. I reserve the remainder of my time and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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