

Cassandra's life will get better. Her family's life will get better because of what the Senate did an hour and a half ago. When the President signs the bill, she will not be denied insurance for a preexisting condition. Her family will be able to pay—at a reasonable cost—for insurance so Cassandra will not have to rely on this State program that only takes care of procedures but can get the comprehensive care she and every other child in this country deserve.

That is why I introduced this amendment, and that is why Senator LAUTENBERG and I worked on this legislation.

Every year in my State, over 2 million kids are treated at Ohio's children's hospitals. Next year will be the first year that, when they leave the hospital, they will not have to worry about insurance companies denying them care based on a preexisting condition.

COMPREHENSIVE IRAN SANCTIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND DIVESTMENT ACT

Mr. REID. I want to speak today about S.2799, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2009. This important piece of legislation, which combines legislation written by Senator DODD with legislation introduced by Senators BAYH, LIEBERMAN and KYL, was passed by the Banking Committee earlier this month. It would impose new sanctions on Iran's refined petroleum sector and tighten existing U.S. sanctions in an effort to create new pressure on the Iranian regime and help stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

I know that Senator KERRY, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has been working hard, along with other colleagues, to get a UC agreement so we can get this legislation passed. I understand that we are making good progress towards reaching that goal.

As we move forward with these negotiations, I want everyone to know that I am committed to getting this legislation to the floor sometime after we return in January.

Mr. DODD. I thank the majority leader for all of his help in trying to move this legislation forward. This comprehensive sanctions legislation would arm the administration with critical tools to apply additional pressure on the Iranian regime and disrupt its proliferation and terrorist activities at a pivotal time—a time when Iran's leaders continue to flaunt the will of the international community, trample on the rights of its own people, and threaten the national interests of the United States and our strongest allies, including Israel.

It is now clearer than ever that tougher sanctions must be a key element of our comprehensive Iran strategy going forward. My primary goal with this bill is to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapons capa-

bility. That is why this measure passed the Senate Banking Committee unanimously in October, and I had hoped that we would be able to consider it in the Senate and move toward a conference with the House before we went out for the holidays. While I would have strongly preferred that, I recognize that given the delays on health care reform, we will not now have time to do that. I am also aware that the administration continues to have some concerns about how to create incentives in the bill for countries to cooperate more closely with U.S. efforts to impose tough new multilateral sanctions. I believe we have made some progress in our discussions of recent days, and I am grateful that the majority leader has indicated his willingness to move forward on the bill as soon as possible after we return.

Mr. KERRY. I appreciate Senator REID's commitment to move forward with this legislation and his support of the progress we are making towards a UC agreement. We all share the goal of creating maximum leverage in our efforts to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon—this is a vital national security goal of the United States, and obviously of critical importance to our allies in Israel and around the world.

I believe that this legislation has the potential to make an important contribution to that effort. Having the Senate stand united with the administration behind this legislation would send a very strong and positive signal. That is why many of us are committed to working with the administration and the bill's sponsors to craft an amendment that all can agree on. I know these discussions will be continuing during recess with the intention of reaching a mutually agreeable resolution so that this legislation can be considered as soon as possible when we get back.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. BRUEGGEMAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today I would like to recognize the extraordinary work of First Deputy Director Charles E. Brueggemann of the Illinois State Police. Mr. Brueggeman has served with distinction for 25 years with the Illinois State Police, including as second in command of the department since April 1, 2008.

Mr. Brueggemann began his outstanding career with the Illinois State Police in 1985, serving in patrol, as well as a variety of investigative positions to include narcotics, homicides and crimes against persons. He also served during his tenure in management positions that contributed greatly to the department and community he served. Those positions included district commander, executive officer, assistant deputy director, deputy director and first deputy director.

As first deputy director, Mr. Brueggemann oversaw the agency's

five divisions—operations, forensics, information and technology command, internal investigations, and administration. He was responsible for the oversight of the director's principal advisors assigned to legislative affairs, public information, inspections and budget.

In his prior position, Mr. Brueggemann had oversight of the operations division, with wide-ranging responsibilities including patrol, investigations, homeland security and gaming. While serving in that capacity, Mr. Brueggemann was charged with coordinating a plan to reduce highway fatalities. Under his leadership, the division developed a remarkable strategy that reduced highway crashes to their lowest level in 87 years.

In other honors, he was selected in 2005 by the FBI to attend a counterterrorism leadership program that involved traveling abroad with seven other major city, State, and Federal law enforcement executives to share information and open lines of communications between different nations in the fight against terrorism. Law enforcement officials from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, and Canada also participated.

Mr. Brueggemann received his bachelors degree from McKendree University and a masters degree in Homeland Defense and Security from the Naval Postgraduate School. Married for more than two decades to his wife Susan, they have two daughters Beth and Ali.

I congratulate Mr. Brueggeman on his retirement and thank him for his service to the people of Illinois.

SENATE PARLIAMENTARIANS

Mr. DEMINT. Madam President, one of the important officers in the Senate is the Senate Parliamentarian. The Senate rules are arcane and often vague, and the Parliamentarian is responsible for making sure they are properly applied. Our four Parliamentarians put in long, thankless hours in service to their country. They get no glory, no public accolades. They rarely get high fives for getting the rulings right, but we are always too happy to tell them when we think they got it wrong. Often our disagreement is not with the Parliamentarians, but with the precedents themselves.

The Senate often chooses to sidestep its rules, creating precedents that become loopholes in the rules, which bind the Parliamentarian in the future. We should be careful to avoid these situations because we can unwittingly trample on the right of the minority.

I want to make it clear that while I do have occasional disagreements with the Parliamentarian's office, I still believe they are doing their best to be fair and to apply the rules and precedents as they see them.