

institute. We have had tremendous success with people coming in to help us, to advance the cause of adoption. We hope Americans might look at us also because we are willing to help them break down the barriers so that they can build their family through adoption, if that is what they choose.

Later this week, a lot of Americans, as I have said, will be sitting down at that Thanksgiving table. It is a moment to be thankful for so much, but it is a moment also to recognize that you could give a little more. If it is at that time in your life or at that moment when you and your spouse have decided you want a family, here is one way to do it. There are 126,000 children waiting for you to select them and bring them into your heart and your home for a loving, permanent relationship that in every way will be positive.

So November is National Adoption Month. Choose adoption as an option. If I can be of help, call me, or go online and go to [www.AdoptUSKids.org](http://www.AdoptUSKids.org). You will have a happier Thanksgiving.

#### PROVIDING FOR SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 339, the adjournment resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 339) providing for the sine die adjournment of the first session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. CRAIG. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2217) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 1, line 2 strike "That" and all that follows through page 3, line 3, and insert:

"That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Tuesday, November 25, 2003, through the remainder of the first session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned sine die, or until such day and time as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; that when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on any day from Monday, November 24, 2003, through the remainder of the first session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, on a motion offered by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned sine die, or stand recessed or adjourned until such day and time as may be

specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first".

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 339), as amended, was agreed to, as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 339

*Resolved*, That the resolution from the House of Representatives (H. Con. Res. 339) entitled "Concurrent resolution providing for the sine die adjournment of the first session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress," do pass with the following amendment:

Page 1, line 2, strike out all after "concurring)" over to and including line 3 on page 3 and insert: *That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Tuesday, November 25, 2003, through the remainder of the first session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned sine die, or until such day and time as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; that when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on any day from Monday, November 24, 2003, through the remainder of the first session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, on a motion offered by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned sine die, or stand recessed or adjourned until such day and time as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.*

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, before my friend and colleague from Idaho leaves the floor, I want to express my thanks on behalf of those 100,000-plus kids who are looking for a home of their own with loving, adoptive parents. Thank you, and my friend Senator LANDRIEU, from Louisiana, for the wonderful leadership you have shown. Not just talking the talk but, in the case of your family, very much walking the walk. Happy Thanksgiving to you.

I certainly express that same sentiment to our colleagues here. As we approach Thanksgiving in 2 days, in spite of our problems in this country, we have much for which to be grateful. I very much appreciate the chance to work here with our colleagues, and am grateful for the staffs who help us serve our constituents back home in Delaware and Alabama and Idaho and Rhode Island and other places. We are thankful for the opportunity our constituents have given us this Thanksgiving and every Thanksgiving and throughout the year to serve them.

Mr. CRAIG. I thank my colleague.

#### MEDICARE DEBATE

Mr. CARPER. I don't know that Winston Churchill, one of the great leaders of Britain, ever said anything about Thanksgiving or turkeys. He is somebody we like to quote a lot. He used to say there are two things people should not see made: One of them is sausages and the other is laws.

That could be said of the process we have gone through to modernize Medicare and add a prescription drug benefit. It has been a difficult debate and a difficult process.

Churchill also said democracy is the worst form of government devised by wit of man, except for all the rest. That is also something I would have us keep in mind today as we reflect on this bill.

Mr. President, 38 years ago a Democratic President, Lyndon Johnson, signed into law legislation creating Medicare. At the time it was hailed as a milestone. It was hailed as a landmark in providing a benefit to millions of our senior citizens who did not have access to health care, did not have access to hospitals, did not have access to doctors and nursing care. With the signing of that bill by then-President Johnson, the whole world changed for millions of Americans. Today it continues to change for tens of millions more.

Initially, Medicare, when it was fashioned, was designed to provide access to hospitals for people who needed to get hospitalized to get well. They would have that under Medicare if they were old enough. Similarly, if folks were in need of access to a doctor's care or nurse's care, they would have it under that legislation he signed 38 years ago.

There are a number of things that bill did not provide. It did not provide for home health care. It did not provide for outpatient care. It did not provide for access to prescription medicines or enable senior citizens, those Medicare eligible, to obtain help buying prescription medicine. Over time Medicare has evolved, as we know. Over time we have learned. Today we are a lot smarter. We can keep people out of hospitals and treat them on an outpatient basis. We are far wiser about keeping elderly people out of hospitals and, where it makes sense, treating them in their homes.

We also know today, in 2003, we can prevent a lot of illnesses and we can cure a lot of illnesses. We can enhance the quality of life for senior citizens by making sure they have access to prescription medicines we did not have in 1965, and frankly we did not dream about in 1965.

If we were creating Medicare anew today, this week or this month, it would be a no-brainer. We would have home health care. They would provide for outpatient services and care. It would also include a prescription medicine component.

When I was Governor of Delaware and running for the Senate in 2000, I talked a fair amount about prescription drug programs that were proposed in the Congress, principally one proposed by Senator GRAHAM of Florida. I thought and still think it is a better alternative than what we have adopted here today. Adopting this legislation today is an example of not letting the perfect be the enemy of the good.