are moving democracy forward. But we
dare not take our eye off what Iran is
doing and is preparing. They are ac-
tively pursuing a nuclear weapons pro-
gram under the nose of the rest of the
world, with virtually no real attempt to
limit that development.

When you see these statements com-
bined with that, it is a flare that
should be going up across the world of
what we may be confronted with in the
next months or years, with a nuclear bomb
in the possession of a nation that is a statement
that needed to be made. I was glad that
country of Iran and tell you
had passed this resolution. But we need to
do more. I have authored a piece of leg-
islation on Iran, which calls for the
funding of pro-democracy groups with-
in Iran. Others have offered ideas to
provide increased sanctions on Iran.

If you look at people who study the
country of Iran and tell you—we had a
very good hearing that Senator COBURN
chairs—
provided increased sanctions on Iran.

funding of pro-democracy groups with-

needed to be made. I am glad we

next months or years, with a nuclear

bom. This resolution is a statement

what we may be confronted with in the

gram under the nose of the rest of the

itively pursuing a nuclear weapons pro-

ision on Syria, and we did not get a

islation on Iran.

in Iran, with oversight by international ob-

in the Senate. And second is:

The Senate supports efforts by the people
of Iran to exercise self-determination over
the form of government of their country.

That was not acceptable to some here
in the Senate. And second is:

So we could not adopt tonight in the
Senate the Senate saying to the people
of Iran that we support efforts of self-
determination and a national re-

the US in the chair while I am deliv-

opposed people. Oppressed people
generally seek freedom and seek freedom
so we have, I believe, an opportunity, as
we have had opportunities in the past,
when we lent our ideas and our encour-
agement to help develop either exile
movements or freedom movements
within the countries that are a threat
to the region and a threat to our coun-

eyears ago when Senator BOXER and I introduced legis-
islation on Syria, and we did not get a
lot of support in the committee and
had trouble on the floor of the Senate.
We had trouble at the White House.
They were opposed to the bill. Eventu-
ally, the administration, the com-
mittee, and the Senate came along and
we were able to pass the Syria Ac-
countability Act. Literally, within a
few months, we saw dramatic changes in
Lebanon.

The Syria Accountability Act was a
measure that called for Syria to get
out of Lebanon and imposed sanctions
on Syria for not doing so. The Presi-
dent, to my dismay, in some respects,
didn't support it at first. Presidents
don't often like Congress telling them
what to do when it comes to foreign
policy. But this President not only
signed the Syria Accountability Act, he
implemented the sanctions—a regime of sanctions—and it had a tre-

morous effect. I have had people come
over from Lebanon and tell me of the
importance of that particular legis-
lation and the symbolism of America
standing with the people of Lebanon
against the evil dictator in Syria.

The symbolism of us passing this res-
toration today, and the more than the
symbolism of passing the Iran Freedom
and Support Act, I think is very signif-
ica in a time now with these kinds of com-
ments that Iran has popped its head up
again—its rather unattractive head—in
the area of influencing policy in the
Middle East. We tried in this resolution
to mandate that the President in this
bill I have introduced with the lan-
guage, as I said, with this resolution, but
unfortunately, we were not able to
clear that language. I want to read the
changes we had to make in the resolved
section of the resolution that were
struck as unacceptable for us to be able
to pass it by unanimous consent.
The portions we had to drop were two re-
solved sections. The three things that
are in the final version that passed say:
Resolved, That the Senate:
(1) condemns the recent statement by
President Ahmadinejad that denied the oc-
currence of the Holocaust and supported
moving the Holocaust to Europe;
(2) demands an official apology for these
damaging, anti-Semitic statements that ig-
nore history, human suffering, and the
loss of life during the Holocaust;
(6) reaffirms the need for Iran to
(A) end its support for international ter-
orism;
(B) join other Middle Eastern countries
in seeking a successful outcome of the Middle
East peace process.

What was struck were two sentences:
The Senate supports efforts by the people
of Iran to exercise self-determination over
the form or government of their country.

That was not acceptable to some here
in the Senate. And second is:

The Senate supports national referendum
in Iran, with oversight by international ob-
servers and monitors, to certify the integrity
and fairness of the referendum.

So we could not adopt tonight in the
Senate the Senate saying to the people
of Iran that we support efforts of self-
determination and a national re-

the occupant of the chair. It is a pleas-

the Middle East, and as well for the

20 cosponsors. There were some 20
cosponsors of this resolution. The first
Democrat was Senator MIKULSKI. I also
thank my colleague in the chair for his
patience and allowing me the oppor-
tunity to speak here tonight. He is also
a cosponsor of the resolution. No one is
a stronger advocate for peace and the
mission we are trying to accomplish in
the Middle East, and as well for the

I appreciate my colleagues for agreeing
to pass this resolution. I thank all of
the cosponsors. There were some 20
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USA PATRIOT ACT

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr.
Vinton). Without objection, it is so or-
dered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morn-
ing the Senate voted to continue debat-
ing on the conference report on the PA-
TRIOT Act. Clearly, Senators believe
we can do better in protecting the pri-

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I am disappointed that our distin-
guished majority leader objected twice
to a unanimous consent to extend the
expiring provisions of the act for 3
months. I cannot believe that my dis-
tinguished friend, the majority leader,
wants these authorities to expire. I do not believe the President of the United States would be willing to let these provisions expire when we all agree they are important tools for our Nation’s law enforcement authorities. It would be irresponsible and a dereliction of duty for the administration to allow these provisions to expire. By refusing to reauthorize these parts of the PATRIOT Act, the President and the Republican leadership are playing politics with the American people’s safety.

We need bipartisan support for reauthorizing the PATRIOT Act. That was proven in a unanimous vote in the Senate. We want a 3-month extension of the PATRIOT Act in its current form so that we can pass a better bill than the one that came before the Senate today in the form of a conference report, a better bill that will have the confidence of the American people. The American people are afraid. They are afraid of Big Brother. We, this great country, should not become Big Brother. We need more checks in this law to protect the privacy of ordinary American citizens who have nothing to do with terrorism. I support giving the Government the tools it needs to fight terrorism. I voted for the first PATRIOT Act, but we need more oversight and checks to protect against Government overreaching and abuse of these tools.

We have had these years to find out how the first PATRIOT Act worked. We know there were problems with the first PATRIOT Act. We need to correct these problems. Just as Senator McCain persuaded the President, we need to check potential excesses in interrogation tactics. We also need to ensure that we have put in place checks on the Government’s power to trample on the privacy of innocent Americans.

I would hope people would understand that legislation is the art of compromise. It is the President, the Republican majority leader, met with the Democratic Whip, the Democratic majority leader in the Senate, the Senate, and the House, and the White House should move to work on a compromise, accept our 3-month extension of the PATRIOT Act, but we need more oversight and checks to protect against Government overreaching and abuse of these tools.

We realize that with the 45 votes we have, we cannot do it on our own. We need help from people of good will on the other side of the aisle. There are people who believe as fervently in this environmental standard as I do, and I would call upon them to vote their conscience, to do what is right for this body and do what is right for this country. This is a procedural vote that makes the Senate different from any other legislative body in the history of the world. The Senate is the greatest deliberative body in the history of the world. Do not be playing fast and loose with the rules that govern this Senate. 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

THE PATRIOT ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we have been informed that President Bush’s radio address tomorrow will be about the PATRIOT Act. It is not a surprise. This is an important issue. It is one we should discuss and should discuss as a nation.

We passed the PATRIOT Act because of our concern about the threat of terrorism. It is an act with over 100 different provisions in it. It was passed by only one dissenting vote in the Senate. It included sunset provisions on some controversial parts of it, so that 4 years after we passed it we could take another look to make sure that, in fact, we had done the right thing. We were not overstepping. We want to give our Government enough power to protect us, but we certainly don’t want to surrender our basic rights and liberties if it is not needed.

So we had the reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act up before us and debated it in the Senate Judiciary Committee on which I serve. We reached a bipartisan consensus for reauthorizing that act, a unanimous vote at the Senate floor, the Senate would be asked to consider a reconciliation bill that we had seen it on an issue of this magnitude, but it happened. I believe it was an indication that there is a reasonable way to craft the PATRIOT Act so that, in fact, it serves our needs of national security but does not take that bill and we will change them right back tomorrow. This is an abuse of power. It would have far-reaching consequences for this body. It would be a huge mistake for the Senate and the American people.

We can do better than that. Let us have a fair fight where we have winners and losers. That is the way ANWR was done. I was disappointed when that was lost, but it was lost fairly and squarely. Do not violate the rules. That is what I tell my friends on the other side.

We realize that with the 45 votes we have, we cannot do it on our own. We need help from people of good will on the other side of the aisle. There are people who believe as fervently in this environmental standard as I do, and I would call upon them to vote their conscience, to do what is right for this body and do what is right for this country.

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