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-STATEMENT-

SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ REFLECTS ON THE PASSING OF SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY

SECRETARY OF THE STATE SAYS TED KENNEDY EMBODIED THE TRUE SPIRIT
OF PUBLIC SERVICE; WE SHOULD HONOR HIS MEMORY BY ENACTING
HEALTH CARE REFORM

HARTFORD: Connecticut Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today issued this statement reflecting on the life and death of Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy, who passed away Tuesday night following a yearlong bout with brain cancer.

“Connecticut has lost a leader, a friend, a fighter and a champion for common people. Like many, my family has also been touched by cancer and today my heart goes out to Vicki Kennedy, Patrick, Kara, Ted jr. and his wife Kiki, who live in Connecticut, and to the entire Kennedy family. Senator Kennedy embodied the true spirit of public service and his leadership on so many issues knows no equal – whether it was civil rights, education, helping working families, or economic opportunities for the downtrodden. But most of all, Ted Kennedy’s life’s work was to make sure every American had access to quality, affordable health care. For generations, literally millions of Americans have benefitted from the various health care proposals that became law because of this great man. Ted Kennedy said many times that health care is a right for all Americans, not a privilege for those who can afford the best doctors. Now, we are mourning Ted’s passing. But very soon, every one of us should honor Senator Kennedy’s memory by working hard to enact national health care reform that will guarantee access to doctors and preventative care, saving billions of dollars for our economy. And we accomplish this with the humility and bipartisanship that characterized Ted Kennedy’s unparalleled legislative success. As Ted said when I saw him in Denver one year ago – The work begins anew. The hope rises again. And the dream lives on. Senator Kennedy’s legacy will live on in the countless number of people who were inspired by him and his family to go into public service.”