“Senator Edward Kennedy was a true champion for social justice and a friend always to the poorest of Americans. Whether he was fighting to protect workers, to insure care for our seniors, or seeking access to quality education for young people, Ted Kennedy’s resolve for a better America was a beacon of hope for millions.

Senator Kennedy's leadership, compassion, courage, and endless optimism reminded us that to dream is to open the window to opportunity. Creating opportunity for others was his life’s cause. Today, we recommit ourselves to that cause in his memory.

We send our thoughts and prayers to Senator Kennedy’s devoted wife Vicki and to his children Kara, Teddy Jr., and Patrick, my colleague in the House, whose lives were such a source of pride for their father. As we mourn his loss to us, I hope our prayers and fond reminiscences will be a comfort to each of them.”