Service Employees International Union, you have a pretty good idea who that is. You can find them in the phonebook. You probably know somebody who is a member. They are active in the community. It is no mystery. But how about American Future Fund? The way this is set up right now, ExxonMobile could take its billions of dollars and start laundering that money through shell organizations and shell corporations. By the time the slammer ad gets put on television attacking a political candidate—it could be Americans for Peace and Puppies, as far as we knew—and nobody would have the time in the hectic last days before an election to figure out who it is who is really behind these attacks.

That is no way to run an election. That is no way to run a democracy. That is not transparent. These corporations are not even humans. What they are doing, involved in these elections on this scale, is unimaginable. What it does is it amplifies the political voice of CEOs dramatically.

The great thing about American democracy is that you and I and the pages who are here, when they are old enough to vote, and the police officers outside and the fellow driving by in the taxicab on Constitution Avenue, every American has a vote that counts the same. If you are the CEO of a big corporation, not only can you do your own politicking, but you can take that amassed treasury of wealth with what the Supreme Court called ''the amassing of large treasuries warrants the limit on independent expenditures,'' and you can spend it to push your own views and to drown out your neighbors, your friends, people who oppose you—anyone—with immense amounts of anonymous political spending.

I do not think that is right. I think that is a mistake. Justice Stevens had it right in his dissent in the Citizens United case. He said this:

> At bottom, the Court's opinion is thus a rejection of the common sense of the American people, who have recognized a need to prevent corporations from undermining self-government since the founding, and who have fought against the distinctive corrupting potential of corporate electioneering since the days of Theodore Roosevelt.

Justice Stevens continued:

> It is a strange time to repudiate that common sense. While American democracy is imperfect, few outside the majority of the court would have thought that its flaws included a dearth of corporate money in politics.

So if you want the government of the United States of America—this great and sovereign Nation, this light of democracy in the darkness of this world, this government of Washington, of Jefferson, of Madison, of Roosevelt, of Lincoln—controlled by the same people who brought you a 30-percent interest rate on your credit card, well, the DISCLOSE Act is not for you because they will not be able to do it anonymously if this bill passes.

If you want the government of our country controlled by the insurance companies that took your child off the insurance when he got sick, that wouldn't provide coverage because he had a preexisting condition—if those are the people you want controlling the government—you don't want this bill because you want them to be able to fund these anonymous organizations with no consequence, with no transparency.

If you want our government controlled by the people who brought you the gulf oilspill and who are polluting our atmosphere with carbon day in and day out in ways that are changing our world as we watch it, this bill ''ain't'' for you because this bill wouldn't allow them to do it sneakily, anonymously, unlimitedly.

If you want this government controlled by the big corporations that are taking American jobs and making the American worker pack up the machinery they have worked on into shipping crates to be shipped overseas, where a foreign worker will be hired to make that same product, which will then be brought back into America—if they are the folks you want controlling our government, anonymously, through money and expenditure—the DISCLOSE Act is not for you.

But let me tell you, if you are a regular American, who thinks everybody should have a fair voice at election time, who doesn't want to see our American elections drowned out by lobbyists for international corporations, by huge corporate expenditures that aren't even traceable back to the corporation but that come through phony-baloney organizations with names that sound like ''The Make America Great Foundation''—if that is the kind of politics you want to put an end to—if you want to see real issues debated by real people, this DISCLOSE Act is important.

This isn't just about fairness in one election. This isn't just about a Supreme Court that handed to one political party a gigantic corporate checkbook that had previously been illegal and tells them: Get out there and spend, it is fine. Get out there and spend anonymously, it is fine. If you are an international corporation—if you are not even an American company—get out there and spend, we don't mind. Every day we make choices about whether corporations or people are going to have the upper hand in this society. Our Supreme Court just gave corporations the upper hand, and we have to fight back because it is not just about who wins this election, this is about a democracy that has been through over 200 years of stress and strain. This is about an idea the Founders put together that was unheard of at the time. It was radical, it was exceptional, and it created a society that has shown a light in this world that is brighter than any other government in the history of humankind.

This government has lasted through Civil War and world war, through depression. It has lasted through every kind of stress. Its value is, as probably our greatest President said, very simply, that it is a ''government of the people, by the people, for the people.'' Our purpose is that it not perish from this Earth. This is not a government of the CEOs, by the big corporations, and for their shareholders. It is not an anonymous government where you don't know who is on the air with millions of dollars in advertisements slamming away. It is not a government where a candidate would be embarrassed to have a big corporation on their side that laundered their money through corporate screens so when it finally appeared in the waning days of the race it was all phonied up with a name such as ''Americans For Peace and Love'' or whatever the group is going to be called. That is not what America is all about.

So this may seem like a small issue about reporting of corporate expenditures, but I would submit that when corporations make more in a week than an entire U.S. Presidential election costs and they can throw that kind of money around, there is a lot at stake in trying to make sure American elections are honest and honorable ones. To allow the big corporations, even the international corporations, to continue to spend unlimited amounts of money in our elections, with no reporting requirement, with the ability to launder through phony-baloney shell organizations before people see it, the risk of damage is very great.

So I know it is easy for me to say, because the money is coming in 85 percent against Democrats and for Republicans, and it looks like this is what that is about, but it is not. It is about making sure that a government of the people, by the people, and for the people does not perish from this Earth.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

## EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 6 p.m, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Florida.

## TAX RELIEF

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. President, we are having difficult times in this country, difficult times in my home State of Florida—the highest unemployment

anyone can remember, nearing 12 percent. Florida, unfortunately, is No. 1 in mortgage foreclosures in the first half of the year; No. 1 in being behind in its mortgage payments. Our people are struggling. Our small businesses are struggling. People are struggling to make ends meet. As we face this very difficult time it is natural that the people of my State and the people around this country would look to their leaders in Washington for help.

Certainly government cannot solve all problems. But we here in government do not want to make the problems any worse. Right now we are on the verge of raising taxes on the American people. Tax cuts that were imposed in the last 10 years are set to expire if this Congress fails to act by the end of the year. What is this going to mean to the average Floridian, to the average American, if their taxes go up? It depends upon where you find yourself, in terms of how you pay your taxes. We know the tax brackets are going to increase. For example, the 10-percent tax bracket would disappear and those taxpayers would move up to the 15-percent bracket, capturing all those with incomes below $34,550. It is not just going to affect the people at the upper end of the tax scheme but it is going to affect everyone. When people are having a difficult time making ends meet, to have to pay more in taxes is exactly the wrong thing to do.

Some have said let's extend the tax cuts for those who are in the lower brackets and let's increase those who are at the higher brackets. The problem with that is you are again hurting this economy because we know that people who pay in the higher brackets are job creators. In fact, many of them are small businesses. In our country, small businesses often file as if they were individuals. Subchapter S corporations file as if they were individuals. By not continuing these tax cuts, by raising taxes in the middle of the recession, as many as three-quarters of a million small businesses in this country would have their taxes increase.

I was talking to some folks in Pensacola last week. The gentleman I was speaking to told me the story of a businessperson who related that he is being laid off at his job. The reason he is being laid off is his employer told him when his taxes go up he is not going to be able to afford to keep that employee on. When you raise taxes on small businesses you hurt job creators, exactly the wrong thing we should be doing in this very difficult time.

Instead of tackling issues that could help people get back to work, my friends on the other side of the aisle here are debating a campaign issue, a political issue about alleged campaign finance reform. Where is the initiative to try to put Americans back to work? Where are the offerings from my friends on the other side to get Americans back to work so we can get out of this very difficult economy? We on our side have proposed things such as cutting the payroll tax. If we cut the payroll tax 3 percent, every employee in America would get a 3-percent pay increase. Every employer would have 3 percent more they could use to buy a new piece of equipment or hire a new employee. That is the kind of policy this government could do to get people back to work.

Instead, we passed a $1 trillion health care plan that we found out today is going to require 80 percent of small businesses to change their health care offerings—probably more expensive. So that promise, ''If you liked your health care plan, you can keep it'' is going to ring hollow. We passed the financial regulation reform bill that is causing people in Florida to wonder whether they should move their businesses overseas. We passed huge forms of regulation—more bureaucracy, more spending. What is it doing to job creation? It is freezing it. When I go home to Florida and talk to businesses, they say: I don't know what government is going to hand me next. I don't know if I hire that 25th or 50th employee if I am now going to be fined for not having the right kind of health care. I don't know what is in that 2,000-page financial regulation bill. I don't know what is in that 2,000-page health care bill. What does it mean for my small business?

We have frozen American business, especially small business, which creates two out of every three jobs in this country, with too much bureaucracy, too much spending, too much borrowing, and too much debt.

That goes to another important point about my friends on the other side of the aisle trying to raise taxes in the middle of a recession. This government does not have a revenue problem. This government has a spending problem.

I came to the Senate a year ago, appointed to serve the people of Florida, 18.5 million Floridians. When I came to the Senate on September 10 of last year our national debt was just shy of $12 trillion—$11.7 trillion. The national debt today is $13.5 trillion. We have gone more than $1.5 trillion in additional debt in 1 year. It took 200 years for this country to go $1 trillion in debt. Why on Earth should the American people sacrifice more of their hard-earned money to give this body more money it is going to waste?

The American people have no confidence that we have any ability in Congress to spend their money wisely. They are right about that. That is why they are so angry, and they have a right to be angry—another $1.5 trillion in debt. These numbers are so enormous it is hard to get your brain around them. A trillion dollars is $1,000 billion. I tell folks when I meet with them, if you took $1 bills and laid them out on the ground, $1 million would cover two football fields; $1 billion would cover Key West, FL—3.4 miles square of $1 bills blanketing the ground. A trillion dollars would cover Rhode Island—twice. This is an enormous amount of money.

If you look at the 2009 budget, the 2010 budget, the 2011 budget—each one of them is about $1.3 to $1.5 billion in debt. That is more than $4 trillion debt in 3 years.

We cannot afford the government we have, let alone the government that some in this Chamber want. We need to do a much better job of spending the money we are spending now. But this body does not budget. We go through some procedure that is called budget but what we do is take last year's budget and add to it. No one goes into the agencies of government and says, Are these agencies spending their money efficiently and effectively? No one checks to see if every dollar spent is spent wisely. We are not jealous with the American people's dollars, we just spend them.

Most don't know what we spend them on. Most don't know what those dollars are for. That is because we do not balance our budget. We do not do what American families do when they sit around the table in a difficult economy and say: You know, we are not going to be able to take that vacation this year; or, You know, maybe our daughter cannot have those piano lesson; or, Maybe we have to put the braces off until next year. The hard decisions Americans are making right now are not being made in this Chamber. We are spending more and more of your money, so why on Earth should we take more of your money and give it to government when it is not being spent wisely?

The next generation's future is in jeopardy. If we continue to spend the way we are spending, the debt and deficit will be out of control. Right now we spend $200 billion a year on interest alone—paying for the obligations we should not have incurred in the past. That will turn to $900 billion by 2020 when the projected debt for this country will be $25 trillion. My friends, if we are $25 trillion in debt and we are spending $900 billion a year in interest payments, this government will not function.

This is not just a problem for our kids; this is a problem for us. This problem is going to visit us in the next 2 to 5 years. Washington does not have a revenue problem. Washington has a spending problem. Let's get about the business of getting Americans back to work. If Americans are back to work, there will be more people paying taxes, there will be more revenues. Let's get about the business of balancing the budget and spending money on things that are efficient and effective.

This body should not budget and spend money every year. We should do it every 2 years. My colleague Senator THUNE has proposed that. Let's spend the other year on oversight making sure your money is spent wisely. If we are required to balance the budget, we will actually look in these agencies and see if they are spending your money wisely. If we do those two things, we can save America. So let's get about that business. Instead of

talking about increasing taxes on small business and individuals, let's cut the payroll tax. Let's give employees a pay raise and employers a chance to hire new employees and buy equipment. Let's pass the free trade agreements with Colombia, with Panama, and South Korea. We know those agreements will create more jobs, especially in a State such as Florida. Why have they not been sent to the Congress for approval? My friends on the other side of the aisle like to talk about job creation, but none of the measures that is coming to the floor of this body, or very few, have anything to do with getting Americans back to work.

Today we are missing another opportunity as this body debates alleged campaign finance reform instead of caring about what the American people care about and that is creating jobs.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, one reason I am proud to be from the great State of Wyoming is that our State is the land of many firsts. We have the first national park, which is Yellowstone National Park. We have the first national monument, which is Devils Tower, and we have the first national forest, which is the Shoshone National Forest, just to name a very few.

But another huge milestone and important first for our State is that we were the first State to give women the right to vote. We are pioneers in more ways than one out West. That is how Wyoming got its nickname, the Equality State.

I rise to talk about an important anniversary that our country recently celebrated. August 26 was Women's Equality Day, marking the 90th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. Of course, that is 50 years after Wyoming's special vote. We just celebrated 140 years since Louisa Swain became the first woman in the world to vote.

When the Wyoming territory was being considered to be a State, we were told to repeal women's right to vote. Our legislators said: No thanks. It is not worth that to be a State. Wyoming stood first and, of course, the rest of the country followed suit five decades later.

The ratification of the 19th amendment to our Constitution was a landmark in our need to recognize the voices of women and welcome their contributions to our country. Women have always offered a wealth of knowledge and spirit, and the 19th amendment showed our commitment to continually fight for women's equality.

In Wyoming alone, we have been graced by women's accomplishments from past to present. Wyoming had the first female justice of the peace in the United States, Esther Hobart Morris. We had the first woman to head up the mint. In fact, she is one of the few female statues displayed in the U.S. Capitol today. Wyoming also welcomed the first woman to serve as Governor of a U.S. State, Nellie Tayloe Ross.

Today, we are continually impacted and influenced by strong women in our State. I am honored to serve in Wyoming's congressional delegation alongside U.S. Representative Cynthia Lummis, who took the reins from her predecessor, Barbara Cubin, and has been a remarkable leader for Wyoming. She has served Wyoming in a variety of roles, as a lawyer, a rancher, a legislator, and State treasurer, now U.S. Representative. Now in her role in the House, she continues to do an outstanding job serving her constituents and fighting for their interests in Congress.

It is clear there is no shortage of women looking to stand and make a difference in this country. I am optimistic that we are continuing down a path that looks out for women's best interests and seeks to provide them with more and more venues to have their voices heard and resources known.

Women serve as a pillar of strength in our country. I am proud to recognize the 140th year of Wyoming women voting, and this 90th anniversary of women in the rest of the United States gaining the right to vote and look forward to continually welcoming their contributions and achievements.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN.) The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I understand we are in morning business to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

## DISCLOSE ACT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to speak, as many of my colleagues have today, on the DISCLOSE Act, which is being sponsored by Senator SCHUMER, primarily, and other Members of the Senate, to try to fix and make significant adjustments to an area of law that is very important to many Americans and actually is at the basis of the operation of our democracy.

Many of my colleagues have come to the floor to express their concern about the importance of fixing this, and the DISCLOSE Act is how many of us intend to try to get something fixed that needs to be fixed. No matter if you are a Democrat or Republican, conservative or liberal, or if you are a progressive or a centrist, I think you think it is right to be honest. I think that is a principle everybody can agree to, to be honest and to be forthright and to be truthful and to have been aboveboard.

The problem, as you know, with the outcome of the Court case has to do with the way we run our elections. If we do not fix this, we are going to be in a situation in this democracy where people can spend unlimited amounts of money in a secret way. That is the problem. It is not that corporations can do it or labor unions can do it or conservatives or liberals, it is that it can be done at all in secret.

I do not think Americans want this. I know the people I represent do not want this. They want to have an honest debate. They want to have an open debate. They want people to stand and say: Hi. My name is Joe. My name is Jane. This is my position. This is my position. Debate it. Then people can vote. The problem, if we do not fix this Court case, is that you will never know who is saying what, and that is not right.

That is akin to walking out into the school yard and getting hit from behind and you do not even know who hit you and no one will tell you. How can you fight someone you do not know? How can you participate in something like that? So this loophole has to be closed. I think, and most people in my State believe, that elections should be open, should be honest, should be transparent. Corporations can participate, labor unions can participate, big companies, small businesses. But you do need to disclose who you are in a report.

I have an article from the Washington Post. I wanted to have it blown up, but we had difficulty. I will try to explain it, and I will hold it up so maybe the cameras can see it. This says in the last cycle in 2008, 117 entities reported donations, and there were 372 that didn't. That ratio is about one-third reported, and the other two-thirds did not. The trend is going in the wrong direction. More people are participating but not saying who they are so nobody knows. The report for this year, 2010, is already a ratio of 1 to 6. So we are not even into the end of this election cycle. We are getting close to it. The ratio is 15 have been reporting, 85 haven't, which means about only 1 in 6. It is all becoming secret.

I don't think that is right for our people. I think our people should know who is saying what, what money is behind what ad so it helps them understand better the arguments and why they might be seeing such ads.

I have a real problem, and I will give an example. The Presiding Officer may have this problem in Minnesota. We have a big problem in Louisiana and Florida with Chinese drywall. This product came in from China, and it is rotten. When people put it in their house, they get sick. Their kids get sick. Their copper piping starts rotting. It is horrible. Our people had