

bloated bureaucracy called the Federal Government.

Here we are, trying to protect taxpayers of our States who are stretched to the gills in terms of what they have to pay not only in Federal but State or sales—you name it—or real estate taxes that roll up and consume so much of everybody's weekly pay.

The least we can do—while we need to make major fixes to our fiscal problems here—is take those that have been identified by legitimate neutral organizations—inspectors general of the United States, various agencies—bring those to light, and then do something about it and not just come down here and make a chart and add some red ink, but actually introduce legislation, which I am trying to do on some of these pieces so that we can remedy this problem.

So meanwhile we have an administration here that has refused over and over to sit down and work out a long-term fiscal debt reduction program, which this country desperately needs because the debt clock is still ticking away like crazy.

If you want to see it, go to my Web site at coats.senate.gov. We have the clock right there. We haven't talked about it much down here lately. We made a big push earlier. Too many people have thrown up their hands and said that under this administration it is not going to happen. That probably is right. But the least we can do then, until we get new management in the White House, is to find these issues of waste, fraud, and abuse, and do something about it now. So that is what we are trying to do.

I look forward to being back here next week with the latest edition of "Waste of the Week."

I thank my colleague from Maine for her patience.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The Senator from Rhode Island.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the Senator from Maine is about to speak I believe on the Older Americans Act.

While she is here on the floor, I wish to take a moment to express my personal appreciation to her and to Chairman ALEXANDER for an issue that arose during the course of the Older Americans Act.

I have a very strong concern that older Americans, particularly as they approach the end of their lives, are not getting their wishes honored. In fact, very often nobody even knows what their wishes are about how they would like to be treated at the end of their lives. Do they want to be at home? Do they not particularly care about using all the medical apparatuses available to them? Do they want to be in the hospital and have everybody take every available measure? That should be their choice. It should be an in-

formed choice and a choice that we should honor.

I sought language within the Older Americans Act to try to empower that. There were difficulties with it, and those difficulties were resolved by the willingness of Chairman ALEXANDER to ask Chairman COLLINS to hold a hearing on this subject in the Select Committee on Aging and for all of the chairmen and ranking members on the two committees to send a letter to the Government Accountability Office to lay out the case and put a factual brief before us for that hearing.

This would not have happened without the courtesy of Senator COLLINS. This is an aging committee thing that she has been willing to do to resolve an issue that actually started in the HELP Committee. It was very gracious of her. She has been a leader on these end-of-life issues for a long time. I didn't want to miss this chance to express my appreciation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, before the Senator from Rhode Island leaves the floor, let me thank him for his kind comments. I have enjoyed working with him on issues such as hospice care and advanced planning. I know these issues are very important to him, as they are to me. I am happy we are able to collaborate on a GAO request and also on a hearing later this year.

So I thank him for his efforts in resolving this issue so that the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act could go forward.

EVERY CHILD ACHIEVES ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, before I begin my comments on the Older Americans Act, I do want to add to the accolades that have been given today to the chairman and the ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, on which I am pleased to serve.

They have worked as a team, providing tremendous leadership that brought us to a tremendous accomplishment today, and that is the passage of the Every Child Achieves Act. It would not have happened without the extraordinary leadership of Chairman ALEXANDER and Senator MURRAY, the ranking minority member. I thank them for their hard work in this regard.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as the chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging and as the cosponsor of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, I also commend the chairman and the ranking member of the HELP Committee for their hard work over the past 2 years in developing a bipartisan consensus bill to reauthorize and strengthen the Older Americans Act. It is my hope that the

Senate later today will unanimously pass this important legislation.

The programs authorized by the Older Americans Act are tremendously important in the State of Maine and across the country. Maine is the oldest State by median age in the entire country. Probably, if I asked most of my colleagues, they would guess it was Florida, but in fact it is the State of Maine.

Maine's network of five area agencies on aging provides invaluable supports and services to more than 100,000 seniors living in my State.

In just the past few months, I have received almost 700 letters from seniors across Maine urging that we pass the reauthorization bill. I look forward to letting my constituents know that the Senate soon will do just that.

While funding has been provided on a continuing basis through the appropriations process, the fact is that legislation reauthorizing the Older Americans Act is long overdue. The authorization expired in 2011.

It is particularly significant that the Senate pass this legislation this month, for July marks the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act.

This law funds critical services in communities across our Nation that help to keep our older adults healthy and independent. Its funding supports some of the most vital and successful Federal programs for our Nation's seniors.

Nearly 12 million older Americans receive services through this law, such services as Meals on Wheels, senior centers, transportation, legal services, and caregiver support.

Moreover, these programs are operated through a national network of area agencies on aging that stresses local decisionmaking regarding what services are most needed for older adults in a particular community. It is a flexible program that allows local needs to be met.

Older Americans Act programs also help to relieve the financial pressure on the Medicare and Medicaid Programs, because they help seniors to stay healthy, independent, and living right where they want to be—in the comfort, security, and privacy of their own homes.

AARP's surveys consistently reflect the fact that aging in place is the preferred option for seniors who want to continue to live independently and avoid expensive nursing home and other institutionalized care as long as possible.

This bill also includes important provisions to strengthen the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and to help protect our vulnerable seniors from financial exploitation and abuse. Financial exploitation of our seniors is a growing epidemic that cost them an estimated \$2.9 billion in 2010. It is so disturbing that in 90 percent of these cases, the financial exploitation abuse is perpetrated by a family member, a trusted individual, a caregiver—someone whom the senior knows well. The

Aging Committee has held hearings to highlight this issue, and the bill that will be coming before the Senate later today will take steps to strengthen the Federal response to this growing problem.

Of course passage by the Senate, while an essential step, is not the final step in reauthorizing this significant law. I look forward to continuing to work with the chairman, the ranking member, and our colleagues here and in the House to make the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act a reality this year. And how wonderful would it be if it could be a reality this month, which marks the 50th anniversary of this significant law.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ABORTION

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I wish to take just a moment to speak about a subject that is very difficult for me to speak about and, quite frankly, difficult for a lot of Americans to speak about and hear about. It connects to all of us in extremely personal ways. Let me set some context.

Not long ago, a group of animal rights activists gathered around a research facility that was using animals for their testing. The activists gathered around the facility, chanted, and had signs they held up that said "It is not science, it is violence" and other signs that said "Animal lives are their right; we have just begun to fight" as they protested to protect the lives of the animals that were being used for research in that facility.

I understand their frustration, but let me put it in the context of some things that came out this week. We have learned that this week an organization called Planned Parenthood is using children who were aborted and sending the bodies of those aborted children to research facilities—sometimes for sale, different body parts—to be used in research. These are not mice. These are not lab rats. These are children—children who have gone through the process of a horrific abortion.

This morning, in an appropriations hearing the Presiding Officer and I both were in, we had an extensive conversation about the rights of orca whales. This protracted conversation went on and on—many people also were connected to this—about the rights of orca whales and about their care. Then we had a protracted conversation about horse slaughter and how horses would be humanely put down. But in the mid-

dle of all that conversation that happened today, there were children still being aborted with an instrument reaching into a mother and tearing apart a child but carefully protecting certain organs because those organs would be valuable to sell.

Now the challenge we have on this as a nation is the argument that that baby is not really a baby, that it is just a fetus, it is tissue. "That is not a human baby" is what everyone is told. "That is just tissue, and it is up to the mom to determine what happens to that tissue." And then on the flip side of it, moments later, they take that tissue and then sell it because it is human organs that are needed for research. You can't say in one moment that it is not a human and then sell it in the next moment as a human organ and now suddenly say it is. It was a human all the way through. There was never a time that wasn't a child. There was never a time that wasn't a human.

It seems the ultimate irony to me that we spend time talking about the humane treatment of animals being put down, such as in horse slaughter, and we completely miss children being ripped apart in the womb and their body parts being sold.

Here is how it happens. A mom comes into a facility, gives consent to have an abortion, makes that request. After that request is made, to some moms—and we don't know exactly how they choose which moms—to some moms they then ask consent for their child, after it is aborted, to be used for research purposes.

From the video that was put out this week, they said that was actually comforting to some moms, that as they know how traumatic the abortion is, at least some good would come out of it, that those body parts would then be used for research to hopefully save other children—which again comes back to the ultimate irony that we literally tear one child apart in an abortion with the assumption that hopefully that would actually help some other child in the future, missing out on the significance of the child who is right there who could be helped by protecting their life.

Then the doctor in this particular video gives the details of how once they get that consent from the mom, they would be careful to reach in and actually crush the head of the child to kill the child in the womb so they could preserve the rest of the organs because the kidney has value, because the liver has value, because the lungs have value, and because the muscles in the legs have value.

I would tell you that child has value and that every single adult who can hear me right now was once 20 weeks old in the womb. We can look at each other and understand that the difference between that child in the womb and any of us now is time. That is a human being we are talking about, and it doesn't bring me comfort to know that one child is torn apart so that

maybe they can do research on the child's organs so that at some future moment, it may help a different child.

Not every woman is being asked if her aborted child can be used for research, and we really don't know the why. Maybe they are looking for particularly healthy moms. Maybe they are looking for very mature, healthy babies. Maybe it is a situation where a particular mom couldn't afford to have the abortion procedure, and so they swap off and say: If you can't afford the abortion procedure, maybe we can cover the costs by then possibly selling some of these organs. We don't know.

But I think maybe the question needs to be asked why this Congress would spend time today debating horse slaughter and debating orca whales, and yet we have become so numb to children that the other debate doesn't seem to come up.

Maybe we need to start again as a nation asking a basic question: Is that a child? In our Declaration, we said every person, we believe, is endowed by our Creator to life, liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. Maybe we need to ask again as a nation, do we really believe that?

Let's start with some basic things. How about a child of 20 weeks who we know scientifically can feel pain cannot have their limbs ripped apart in an abortion. There are only seven countries in the world that allow that. We are in a prime group—like North Korea and China—of nations which still allow abortions that late. We should ask that question again: Is that really who we are as America?

Maybe we need to ask the question again to Planned Parenthood, to which we give half a billion dollars in funding. Maybe this is not a good idea. Other organizations that serve people all over the country raise their funds separately and don't do it with Federal funds. Maybe that is a legitimate question we need to ask.

We have hard questions to deal with as a nation—budget, regulations, the future direction we are going. Why don't we add to the list? Do we really care about children or not? And on a day that we passed an education bill, before we pat ourselves on the back saying how much we care about children, let's make sure we are dealing with a compassion for children at every age, not just at certain ages. Have we really become this numb? And how do we turn it around?

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, are we in a quorum call?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is not in a quorum call.

OECD BASE EROSION AND PROFIT SHIFTING PROJECT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to express serious concern about an ongoing project at the Organization