which would effectively undermine the proposal of the Secretary of HHS on Final Rule for organ transplantation. There is an excellent editorial in the Washington Post, dated 11-17-99. It puts this issue in perspective. It says:

Congress has not quite given up the year-long attempt to block rules that would make the Nation’s organ transplant network more equitable. House leaders are maneuvering to undo a deal reached by conferees allowing the rules to go into effect, even threatening to block organ authorization for search and training at children’s hospitals if the organ rules are not further delayed.

Mr. President, that agreement was broken with the language that has been included on the disability legislation. I praise him also for having the doors slammed because they lost their benefits.

I thank the Senator from Massachusetts. I would be happy if he desires to make any further comment.

I see my friend and colleague, Senator Jeffords, who has been instrumental in having this legislation advanced. I am glad to see him on the floor at this time. I hope he will address the Senate on this issue.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The Senator from Vermont.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

TICKET TO WORK AND WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. Jeffords, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 1 p.m. with the time equally divided in the usual form.

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

Mr. Jeffords, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill that we were so happy to be able to complete out of State. Finally, conferees reached a compromise that would delay the rules 6 more weeks, then let them go into effect. They also turned to State gov-

There is broad and wide bipartisan support for the proposal to support teaching in pediatric hospitals. But that was going to be the messenger, and the poison pill was going to be the language which, as I understand, would be a part of the legislation that we will see later on in the day.

Let me continue with the Post editorial:

The rules issuance last year touched off fur-

News of the day, in perspective, is news of the week, of the month, of the year. Yet, important policy issues emerge only to fade quickly because the legislation, or the bill.

As we have walked through this over a period of many years, we have fought year by year to remove block by block what the disabled community has had to face. Finally, we are at that point where we are opening the final door to allow them to do what all disabled want to do, and that is to have a meaningful life, to be able to seek employment, and get the education they need. I can’t thank the Senator enough for what he has done. Also, there are others, some who have left this body, such as Bob Dole, who was another leader for the disabled. I praise him also for the work he did, and especially in this area where he helped us introduce the bill that we were so happy to be able to cosponsor and to see it put into the final steps.

Mr. President, I will take only a mo-

The Institute of Medicine’s analysis further found that there is no reason to conclude that minority and low-income patients would be less likely to obtain organ transplants as a result. Likewise, data does not support the assertion that potential donors and their families would decline to make organ donations because an organ might be used outside the donor’s immediate geographical area.

The Institute of Medicine recommends that HHS—and this is on page 12 of the report—should exercise the legitimate oversight responsibilities assigned to it by the National Organ Transplant Act, and articulated in the Final Rule for the system of organ procurement and transplantation in the public interest.

Federal oversight is needed to ensure that high standards of equity and quality are met. Those high standards of equity and quality were included in the Secretary’s excellent recommendation. By tampering with those, we are undermining enormously powerful and important health policy issues. And this extremely controversial rider is added onto underlying legislation which is so important to millions of disabled indivi-

I thank the Senator from Massachusetts.

I would be happy if he desires to more fully discuss what we have done. I was not here to hear his full speech. I thank him. We have worked together. He was here years before I came to the Senate. In 1975, we had the initial big step forward for the disabled and were able to set up the 9412, as it was called then, to make sure all children got a good education, and especially those with disabilities.

As we have walked through this over a period of many years, we have fought year by year to remove block by block what the disabled community has had to face. Finally, we are at that point where we are opening the final door to allow them to do what all disabled want to do, and that is to have a meaningful life, to be able to seek employment, and get the education they need. I can’t thank the Senator enough for what he has done. Also, there are others, some who have left this body, such as Bob Dole, who was another leader for the disabled. I praise him also for the work he did, and especially in this area where he helped us introduce the bill that we were so happy to be able to cosponsor and to see it put into the final steps.

I thank the Senator from Massachusetts profusely for all he has done. I would be happy to yield for any further comment.