local level, but only through a system of measurable indicators of desired outcomes.

As the father of a young son, I know the difficulty families face when searching for a caregiver for their children. I believe we must give families peace of mind by helping states provide the high quality of care every child deserves. We must not threaten a parent's chance at succeeding on the job and achieving self-sufficiency.

OFFERING BODY PARTS FOR SALE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend to the attention of my colleagues this disturbing article by Mona Charen, which appeared in the November 11, 1999 edition of the Washington Times. As the article itself states, “This is not a bad joke. Nor is it the hysterical propaganda of an interest group. It was reported in the American Enterprise magazine—the intelligent, thoughtful recollections of a medical technician who worked for a medical firm engaged in selling the body parts of the victims of late-term abortions. In her most chilling descriptions, she relates the means by which children born alive are killed, sold, and used for a profit. On this life and death issue, I urge my colleagues to consider this woman’s words for themselves:

[From the Washington Times, Nov. 11, 1999] 

OFFERING BODY PARTS FOR SALE

(By Mona Charen)

“Kelly” (a pseudonym) was a medical technician working for a firm that trafficked in baby body parts. This is not a bad joke. Nor is it the hysterical propaganda of an interest group. It was reported in the American Enterprise magazine—the intelligent, thoughtful recollections of a medical technician who worked for a medical firm engaged in selling the body parts of the victims of late-term abortions. In her most chilling descriptions, she relates the means by which children born alive are killed, sold, and used for profit. On this life and death issue, I urge my colleagues to consider this woman’s words for themselves:

“We did was to have a contract with an abortion clinic that would allow us to go there on certain days. We would get a generated list each day to tell us what tissue researchers, pharmaceutical companies and universities were looking for. When we would examine the patient charts, we only wanted the most perfect specimens,” That didn’t turn out to be difficult. Of the hundreds of late-term fetuses Kelly saw on a weekly basis, only about 2 percent had abnormalities. About 30 to 40 babies per week were around 30 weeks old—well past the point of viability.

Is this legal? Federal law makes it illegal to buy and sell human body parts. But there are loopholes in the law. Here’s how one disappointed the trade in a brochure for abortionists: “Turn your patient’s decision into something wonderful.”

For its buyers, Opening Lines offers “the highest quality, most affordable, freshest tissue prepared to your specifications and delivered in the quantities you need, when you need it.” Eyes and ears go for $75, and brains for $995. “An “intact specimen,” a whole liver $150. To evade the law’s prohibition, body-parts dealers like Opening Lines offer to lease space to the abortion clinic to “perform the harvest,” as well as to “offset the clinic’s overhead.” Opening Lines further boasted, “Our daily average case volume exceeds 1,500 and we serve clinics across the United States.”

Kelly kept at her grisly task until something made her reconsider. One day, “a set of twins at 24 weeks gestation was brought to us in a pan. The doctor came back and said, ‘Got you some good specimens—twins.’ I looked at him and said: ‘There’s something wrong here. They are moving. I can’t do this. This is not in my contract.’ I told him I would not be part of taking their lives. So he took a bottle of sterile water and poured it in the pan until the fluid came up over the mouths and noses, letting them drown. I left the room because I could not watch this.”

But she did go back and dissect them later. The twins were only the beginning. “It happened again and again. At 16 weeks, all the way up to sometimes even 30 weeks, we had live births come back to us. Then the doctor would break the neck take a pair of tongs and beat the fetus until it was dead.”

American Enterprise asked Kelly if abortion procedures were ever altered to provide specific body parts. “Yes. Before the procedures they would want to see the list of what we wanted to procure. The (abortionist) would get us the most complete, intact specimens that he could. They would be delivered to us completely intact. Sometimes the fetus appeared to be dead, but when we opened up the chest cavity, the heart was still beating.”

The magazine pressed Kelly again: Was the type of abortion ever altered to provide an intact specimen, even if it meant producing a live baby? “Yes, that was so we could sell better tissue. At the end of the year, they would give the clinic back more money because we got good specimens.”

Some practical souls will probably swallow hard and insist that, well, if these babies are going to be aborted anyway, isn’t it better that medical research should benefit? No. This isn’t like voluntary organ donation. This reduces human beings to the level of commodities. And it creates of doctors who swear an oath never to kill the kind of people who can beat a breathing child to death with tongs.

MEDICARE FRAUD PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. JUDY BIGGERT
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Act.

The vast majority of health care providers in this country are honest. Yet all large health care programs are vulnerable to exploitation, and Medicare is no exception. Over the past few years, Medicare fraud has skyrocketed, depriving millions of seniors quality care and billions of dollars.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General, in fiscal year 1998 alone, waste, fraud, abuse and other improper payments drained as much as $13 billion from the Medicare Trust Fund.

How is this happening? Well, according to a June 1999 General Accounting Office examination of three states—North Carolina, Florida and my home state of Illinois—as many as 160 sham clinics, labs or medical-equipment companies have submitted fraudulent claims.

For example, two doctors who submitted in excess of $690,000 in fraudulent Medicare claims listed nothing more than a Brooklyn, New York laundromat as their office location. In Florida, over $6 million in Medicare funds were sent to medical equipment companies that provided no services whatsoever; one of these companies even listed a fictitious address that turned out to be located in the middle of a runway at the Miami International Airport.

Phony addresses and bogus providers add up to Medicare fraud and taxpayers being swindled out of billions of dollars.

In an attempt to change this equation, I am introducing the Medicare Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1999. This legislation is designed to prevent waste, fraud and abuse by strengthening the Medicare enrollment process, expanding certain standards of participation, and reducing erroneous payments.

Among other things, my bill gives additional tools to the federal law enforcement agencies that are pursuing health care swindlers. This bill is by no means a solution to Medicare fraud. But the Medicare Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1999 will make it more difficult for unscrupulous individuals to enter and take advantage of the Medicare system.

It is my hope that, come the next legislative session, my colleagues will join me in making a commitment to preventing and detecting fraud and abuse.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.
OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, on November 16 and 17, I missed several votes because I was home recovering from surgery. Had I been present, here is how I would have voted on the various bills. I would request that you insert this at the appropriate place in the Record at 31285.