

Whistleblowers are a critical component of ensuring that our government remains accountable to the people that it serves. For years, I have worked with fellow lawmakers to ensure that whistleblowers have the kind of protections they need to be able to shine a light on waste, fraud, and abuse—without fear of retribution. Part of this effort has been through rigorous congressional oversight of agency compliance with laws like the Whistleblower Protection Act.

This also involves rooting out areas for improvement. Earlier this month, the Senate Judiciary Committee held an oversight hearing to examine the urgent need for increased whistleblower protections at the FBI, where—unlike every other Federal agency—employees are not protected from retaliation for uncovering and reporting wrongdoings to their direct supervisors.

People who are courageous enough to open wide the curtains on waste, fraud, and abuse should not have to fear for their livelihood; they should be honored for exposing the truth. To help advance this effort, I—along with a bipartisan group of Senators—recently launched the Whistleblower Protection Caucus. The caucus will serve as a resource for the latest information on whistleblower developments and will foster bipartisan discussion on the treatment of whistleblowers.

Agency inspectors general, likewise, play a crucial role in bringing information about government actions—or inactions—out into the public light. It is important that their jobs not be undermined by the very agencies within which they operate. I am continually frustrated by the stories I hear of an agency stonewalling an inspector general's attempt to uncover the truth. In August 2014, 47 inspectors general from across the Federal government wrote to Congress about agency refusals to provide access to documents and information critical to their investigative efforts.

I am particularly troubled by recent reports from the Justice Department's Office of the Inspector General that the FBI is failing to provide it with timely access to records. Not only is the FBI dragging its feet in turning over key documents, it is erecting barriers to access that are in direct contradiction with Federal law.

If agencies are willing to go to such lengths to prevent disclosure, we have all the more reason to recognize and support the efforts of those who—often at great risk—seek to peel back the curtains.

Sunshine Week continues to be a reflection of the tireless efforts of whistleblowers, government watchdogs, investigative journalists, and average Americans from across the country who are steadfast in their pursuit of a more transparent and accountable government. They are doing their part. We need to do ours. Let's build upon this 10th anniversary of Sunshine Week to

engage in the discussions and work together toward the solutions that will truly usher in a new era of openness.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. DOUGLAS ELMENDORF

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment to recognize Dr. Douglas Elmendorf's strong service to our country and, specifically, to the Congress. He leaves the directorship of the Congressional Budget Office today after leading this important agency for 6 years, one of the longest tenures in CBO's 40-year history. His steady, wise, and innovative management of Congress's budget umpires has enhanced that organization's already sterling reputation.

We are particularly grateful for his steady hand as we worked our way through the policy responses to the great recession. I cannot think of a more trying time to have been CBO Director than the last 6 years.

He also gets high marks in my book for his leadership in pioneering important scoring techniques that include the use of models of the U.S. economy. In this regard, his commitment to providing Members of Congress with the best information possible further burnished CBO reputation.

We will miss Doug Elmendorf. However, he leaves a young man, which likely means those of us in the public policy community will continue for many years to benefit from his economic wisdom and passion for this country.

#### NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing March as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. This month provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the significant strides we have made in confronting colorectal cancer and to renew our commitment to beating this devastating disease. In 2000, President Clinton first dedicated National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in order to raise awareness of colorectal cancer and to remind us of the important steps we can take to prevent, detect, and ultimately defeat this disease.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States. This year, approximately 50,000 Americans will die from colorectal cancer, which means each one of us in this Chamber will lose an average of 1,000 constituents in 2015 alone. The likelihood of developing colorectal cancer is now greater than 1 in 20, and 133,000 Americans are expected to be newly diagnosed this year. The American Cancer Society estimates that 2,360 new cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in Maryland and, sadly, 860 Marylanders are expected to die from the disease this year.

Colorectal cancer affects men and women equally when we reach the age

of 50 and beyond. Unfortunately, as I look around this room I know that some of you have known someone who has been impacted by this disease.

Despite these grim statistics, however, the single most encouraging fact about this deadly disease is that colorectal cancer is among the most preventable of all cancers. Unlike other cancer screenings where the goal is to detect cancer at an early stage, colorectal cancer screenings can actually prevent cancer from occurring in the first place. Colorectal cancer arises from pre-cancerous growths, or polyps, that grow in the colon. If found early through appropriate screening and detection, these polyps can be removed, halting their progression into colorectal cancer. The way to beat this disease is with regular screening through a variety of methods, including colonoscopy. These are life-saving tests. In fact, a recent study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* concluded that of the nearly 50,000 people expected to die of colorectal cancer this year, screening could save more than half of them.

At the same time, colorectal cancer screening is becoming a public health success story in the United States. While it remains the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men and women combined, both the incidence and death rate have been declining in recent years—something no other country can claim. The percentage of the population that is up to date with recommended colorectal cancer screening increased to 65 percent in 2010 and, among those aged 50 and older, incidence rates have dropped 30 percent over the last decade. This positive trend in lower incidence rates demonstrates the importance of screening and the power of preventive medicine.

In Maryland, we can boast one of the highest screening rates among eligible populations in the country at 70 percent. However, that still means that three out of every ten people at risk are not getting screened. This highlights the need for policies to help achieve the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's national goal of having 80 percent of eligible Americans screened by 2018. Furthermore, screening rates remain unacceptably low across the country, especially in the Medicare age population, who have the greatest risk for developing colorectal cancer.

I am proud to rise in support of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. The need for increased awareness about this disease and the importance of screening is a public health issue truly worthy of our attention in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in working to raise awareness that colorectal cancer is preventable, detectable, treatable and curable.