

I am convinced we will see a dropoff in this kind of problem. It is the right thing to do.

My proposal is to add \$5 million, \$2 million of which would get us back to last year's budget only, and a \$3 million cost of living on top of that, so they can continue an aggressive effort to ensure integrity.

I have Senator ENZI with me, the ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and Senator ALEXANDER, who are both interested in speaking on this. I will yield to Senator ENZI at this time. I believe I have 30 minutes; is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time agreement.

The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. ENZI. Senator SESSIONS has offered a very important amendment, and I am pleased to be a cosponsor. The amendment restores critical funding to the Department of Labor's Office of Labor-Management Standards. It is referred to as OLMS.

Funding for the Office of Labor-Management Standards in the current Senate bill is 20 percent below the requested amount, essentially scaled back from the 2006 level. Senator SESSIONS' amendment restores funding to current fiscal year 2007 levels and adds an additional \$3 million to continue audit and enforcement efforts.

What is the Office of Labor-Management Standards and why is it so important? The fact is the Office of Labor-Management Standards is the only agency in the Federal Government that is devoted to protecting the interests of American workers that pay union dues. It requires financial reporting

and transparency by labor unions about how they use their members' money, and it investigates and prosecutes union officials who are guilty of fraud or abuse of their members' financial interests.

There should not be any reasonable debate about the importance of financial transparency for any entity, including labor unions. We demand, as we should, corporate transparency in order to protect stockholders. Those who pay union dues are no less entitled to the benefits of financial transparency and fraud protection than those who purchase stock. Indeed, purchasing stock is a voluntary activity, while in many instances the payment of union dues is not voluntary. Protecting the financial interests of working men and women, giving them access to how their money is being used and providing remedies for those instances where the money is misused ought to be a priority, not an afterthought.

It is the height of hypocrisy to talk about protecting the rights of working men and women, or aiding the so-called middle class, while simultaneously slashing the budgets of one of the Federal agencies that protects the financial interests of those who pay union dues.

The Sessions amendment puts a question directly before the Senate. Will we vote down his amendment and allow the Office of Labor-Management Standards funding to be rolled back and go out of our way to send a message to the working men and women who pay union dues that protecting their rights is unimportant? That is the question we are being asked.

I hope we will not tell them that protecting their rights is unimportant. This amendment gives the Senate a chance to go on record about the importance of integrity in leadership elections, finances, and respect for the rights of individuals. We know every dollar in most of our paychecks matters. When we are compelled to give a portion of our paycheck away, either through taxes or union dues, it is an affront for that money to be used to inflate someone else's lifestyle, or to be misused in any other way. That is exactly what the Office of Labor-Management Standards guards against.

OLMS enforces the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act, a law enacted with bipartisan support, including that of then-Senator Jack Kennedy.

In this administration alone, OLMS has returned nearly \$102 million to union members who were robbed. There were only 8.7 million private sector employees represented by unions in 2006. I will restate that number. OLMS has returned \$102 million to union members who were robbed. OLMS has indicted 827 individuals and gotten convictions on 790 of them. That is a pretty good record. Again, they have indicted 827, and they have obtained convictions on 790. That is a very impressive conviction rate by any standard.

I have a State-by-State breakdown of those statistics, which I will enter into the RECORD. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OLMS STATE PROGRAM DATA (OCTOBER 1, 2000–AUGUST 31, 2007)

State	Active unions	Audits completed	Indictments	Convictions	Restitution amount
Alabama	487	41	19	20	\$281,147
Arkansas	320	21	5	4	107,216
Arizona	187	12	6	5	128,880
California	1444	161	31	28	1,231,382
Colorado	297	55	11	9	194,490
Connecticut	324	70	8	8	373,265
District of Columbia	358	30	29	27	16,808,286
Delaware	90	23	3	2	42,630
Florida	592	32	15	15	468,897
Georgia	692	38	15	15	235,285
Guam	7	5	0	0	0
Hawaii	246	21	3	6	110,254
Iowa	474	47	16	15	498,704
Idaho	131	14	2	2	3,234
Illinois	1455	206	43	45	21,924,713
Indiana	905	52	26	28	284,716
Kansas	327	53	15	12	208,039
Kentucky	492	47	14	14	158,038
Louisiana	441	29	15	17	225,807
Massachusetts	653	247	11	10	215,061
Maryland	357	28	5	5	186,658
Maine	165	20	2	2	53,547
Michigan	1121	65	29	28	397,900
Minnesota	606	90	18	18	523,288
Missouri	701	224	33	34	348,851
Mississippi	278	6	14	16	162,221
Montana	205	14	4	4	63,983
North Carolina	498	23	14	17	304,373
North Dakota	144	6	6	6	59,077
Nebraska	231	27	6	5	186,483
New Hampshire	117	30	1	0	0
New Jersey	680	119	10	8	287,263
New Mexico	142	7	4	3	70,430
Nevada	132	21	5	6	279,844
New York	1673	349	88	85	47,785,509
Ohio	1648	223	66	67	1,110,247
Oklahoma	266	18	11	9	130,659
Oregon	341	24	15	12	2,455,717
Pennsylvania	1639	269	54	48	934,263
Puerto Rico	127	3	13	2	33,851
Rhode Island	135	57	1	0	0
American Samoa	2				
South Carolina	234	7	3	3	49,974
South Dakota	117	2	2	2	29,175