be able to afford replacement houses after the storm. Unless we are able to provide grants, there are many businesses, small farmers, who were in business before the storm, but will not be able to return or remain in business because of the storm.

Over the years, America has come to the aid of many in foreign countries, as we should and as we must continue to do. We have helped to rebuild Europe. We have helped to boost the recovery of Japan. We have come and will continue to come again and again to the aid of Kosovo. Surely, Mr. Speaker, we can come to the aid of our fellow citizens in eastern North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, America is at its best when conditions of our fellow citizens are at their worst. America was at its best on November 6 when those Members of that happened near their hearts and time and hands to those storm-torn communities and to the flood victims.

In the budget agreement we just voted on, Congress did indeed provide some relief, for which we are very appreciative, although I was forced to vote against the bill because it did not contain $81 million promised by the Senate leadership for the agricultural cooperative that would have aided our tobacco farmers, our peanut and cotton farmers. There were indeed provisions in there that will provide a response to the Housing needs and additional resources for agriculture and loans and grants. I also want to thank the administration for its support.

With this budget, we have made a significant step, but only a step. Much, much more is needed before we can say that Congress has done its part. We must, indeed, do more.

TRAGEDY AT TEXAS A&M

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as one of the last speakers to speak in this chamber in this century in terms of other than the purely procedural motion, it is with great sadness that I rise this evening to talk of a terrible tragedy that happened earlier this morning at Texas A&M.

Some students of Texas A&M and the Aggie family, literally all over the world, are in shock and mourning for the students and their families. The students who were injured and killed and their families.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other Aggie traditions, one of which, unfortunately, will have to be utilized in the very near future. Silver Taps is a tradition at Texas A&M where any student that dies while an active student, there is a ceremony on campus where all of the lights are turned out in the evening, all the students gather at a common area in front of the academic building and Silver Taps are played. So sometime in December, there will be Silver Taps for the students that were killed earlier this morning and Aggies mourn their passing.

There is a memorial service that is going on as we speak. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), whose district Texas A&M is located in, flew down to College Station earlier this afternoon because of the tragic accident, he was there at the bonfire. He was there at the bonfire. He has that memorial service this evening.

The bonfire has been held every year since 1905. After one year in 1956, the bonfire was canceled. That is the only time that it has been canceled until next week. Because of the tragic accident, there will be no bonfire at Texas A&M next week before the football game between Texas University and Texas A&M.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise in strongest sympathy this evening. I would ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pray for the families whose children have been killed or injured. I have one more daughter, Kristin, who is a senior in high school this year, and she hopes to attend Texas A&M. It is my hope that the A&M administration, President Bowen, who is an extraordinary academic leader and faculty leader at Texas A&M, will conduct a full investigation of this accident. If there is a way to find a cause and to prevent it from happening in the future, I know that he will do that, but I also hope that we do not cancel the bonfire in the future.

Again, hundreds of thousands of former students of Texas A&M have participated in the bonfire. With almost no exceptions, those who have participated have nothing but the strongest support for the investigation to find the cause of that catastrophic accident, and hopefully we can come up with safety procedures so that the bonfire can continue in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues pray for the families of those students who lost their lives early this morning at Texas A&M.

GIVE A KID A CHANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Barton), to offer my sympathy to the families of the victims of the bonfire tragedy at Texas A&M University, those who lost their lives and those who were severely injured. My sympathy to my colleague, Congressman BRADY whose district the university is in, and my sympathy to my constituents, many of whom attend Texas A&M and whose family members have attended Texas A&M. My prayers are with them and their families, and I hope that they will know that they are in our thoughts and that the university will proceed with a review of the circumstances. But I offer to them my deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the children of America, more than 13.7 million that suffer from severe mental health disorders. When we think of the tragedies that we have discussed over the past year, the hateful acts of students allegedly in Cleveland, Ohio; the tragedy of a killing of a middle school younger in my own community; the enormous tragedy of Columbine; the killings in Fort Worth, Texas and Jonesboro, we do know that our children need help, need aid, need nurturing, and need intervention.

The Children's Mental Health Act of 1999, more than 13.7 million children in America suffer from severe mental disorders. I have long been an advocate for children's mental health services because I believe that good mental health is indispensable to overall good health.

Mr. Speaker, today I introduced Give a Kid a Chance Omnibus Mental Health Services Act of 1999. H.R. 3455 was offered and filed with over 42 original cosponsors. I believe that all children need access to mental health services, whether these services are provided in a private therapy session or in a group setting, in our communities, or available as an intervention method in our