

We know one thing for sure: It is a mistake to believe that such events, of September 11 and after, cannot have a lasting impact on the mental health of those men, women, and children who have experienced them. We should not repeat the mistakes that were made in the aftermath of the Vietnam war when the trauma experienced by veterans was ignored and trivialized until well after the optimal time for treatment was passed.

We have learned from the outstanding research which has been funded by the VA and the NIMH of the severity of the disorder and the effective ways it can be treated.

Let me summarize the case for this amendment of which Senator WARNER and others have been so supportive. Let us give respect for what people have experienced and help them deal with this now in a manner which is appropriate to their individual needs. Let us help those families who have survived the loss of a loved one and may also now be dealing with preparations for a funeral or memorial without ever receiving any remains of their loved one.

Let us recognize that traumatic grief is real and has unique features that go beyond our usual understanding of death and loss. Let us help the emergency workers who stretched their bodies and minds to deal with this horror and lost so many of their friends and colleagues as well.

Let us help those who escaped with their lives but now suffer from serious injuries and many other losses of their own. Let us help those who made it out safely but who feared for their lives and witnessed such horror and are now dealing with the multiple losses of friends, families, colleagues, and their jobs. And let us help the children who must now try to understand what they saw, what they have lost, what their parents and teachers are going through, and what the world means, while we all struggle to do the same and try to regain our sense of safety.

I am not saying that mental illness is widespread or an inevitable consequence of the event. But after hearing from the experts at this hearing, we should not underestimate the severe impact of September 11 on people's sense of identity and safety and how the multiple losses and horrific experiences they went through have the potential to affect them for a long while.

Let me talk a minute about posttraumatic stress syndrome which can have such lasting effects on the minds and hearts of those who suffer from it. Here I draw from some experience because a lot of my work, especially back in Minnesota, is with Vietnam vets who are struggling with PTSD. We know from research that the brain chemistry can be altered by such experiences, and we know that the day-to-day struggle to deal with the frightening flashbacks, intrusive thoughts,

loss of sleep and many other symptoms can lead to severe problems and an inability to function if left untreated.

I will never forget a letter from a 10-year-old girl in Pope County, MN, who told me that her daddy was a Vietnam vet. He went into the shower in the morning. He had been doing fine. This was many years later, about 4 years ago. She said: My dad came out of the shower and he couldn't talk to anybody. Please help my dad. That was PTSD from the Vietnam war.

Treatment can help people with PTSD, depression, anxiety, and a lot of other illnesses. What we want to do with this amendment is provide States \$175 million in flexible ways to deal with the needs of the citizens. We want to have training programs for licensed mental health professionals. We want to have expedited and increased research funding right away so we know what to do. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to set up a disaster research clearinghouse so that information can quickly be made available to schools and public health agencies during times of crisis.

Funding is authorized for \$50 million for trauma treatment centers for adults and children to provide services for people who are exposed to such traumas.

All of this will make a huge difference. This came up last week. I thank Senator KENNEDY for his leadership. There are a lot of us who are involved in this effort. Senator WARNER is one. I cannot emphasize enough to other Senators how important it is that we try to pass this package.

Today, we were scheduled to bring up the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act. This is legislation on which I have been working with Senator DOMENICI. More important than that, there are 63 or 64 Senators who support it.

One or two Senators objected. I am disappointed to say the least. We could have had this legislation on the floor. We could have had debate and some amendments, and it would have passed.

The legislation did two things: It ended all discrimination in coverage. It is civil rights legislation. It just says no longer can any health care plan treat someone who is struggling with this kind of mental illness differently than someone who is struggling with any other kind of illness.

My God, this is 2001. It is long overdue.

The second thing I want to say—I will not try to put one agenda on top of another, but I want colleagues to know that the second thing that happens from this legislation—which is why it is so important—is that the treatment follows the money. When plans now provide coverage, you then see an infrastructure in our country which doesn't exist now as it should to pro-

vide the care for people. Kay Jamison, who has done brilliant work and writing in this area, said, "The gap between what we know and what we do is lethal."

There is September 11, and there are all kinds of people trying to deal with this trauma. There are all kinds of other men, women, and children who don't get the care they need. This is a piece of legislation that has some urgency. There is no reason to delay any longer. One or two Senators objected.

I hope this will be on the floor soon, and I hope we can pass it. I think the President will sign it. I think it is a bipartisan effort and it is a good thing to do and it is the right thing to do.

I yield the floor.

BENEFITS FOR DISLOCATED AIRLINE WORKERS

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I commend my friend and colleague, Senator CARNAHAN, for her efforts on behalf of dislocated workers in the airline industry. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation which will benefit thousands of workers who have or will lose their job because of the tragic events on September 11.

I want to say a special word of thanks to Senator CARNAHAN and her staff for working with me to clarify that employees of maintenance suppliers to commercial air carriers are covered under the language in the bill. This was an important point for me because of the impact the September 11 attacks has already had on aviation maintenance businesses in my State.

Reebaire Aircraft, Inc. located in Mena, AR, is just one example of why the dislocated worker assistance provided for in this bill is so important. Prior to September 11, Reebaire Aircraft had a thriving business with 101 workers and was in the process of expanding its workforce. Today, Reebaire employs only 15 workers and the owner has informed me that Reebaire may have to cease operations by the end of October. Reebaire's fate is directly related to the terrorist attacks because eighty percent of its business was based on maintenance contracts with commercial air carriers who have cancelled future work orders with Reebaire indefinitely.

Again, I commend my colleague for her efforts on behalf of our Nation's working families.

Mrs. CARNAHAN. I appreciate the support of my friend from Arkansas and I am honored to add her name as a cosponsor of my legislation. As I explained to the Senator earlier, it is certainly my intent to cover dislocated employees of companies that contract directly with commercial air carriers for maintenance and related services if the employees lose their job because of the September 11 terrorist attacks.