

To that end, it is time to do away with the discriminatory practice of treating mental and physical illnesses as two different categories under insurance. It is time to do away with the barriers to mental health treatment and coverage. It is time to pass mental health parity.

I might remind the Senate, we did pass it once on the 2002 appropriations bill. I happened to be chairman that year on the health appropriations bill. We passed mental health parity in the Senate. It got voiced-voted. No one even objected. Imagine that. We passed it. It went to conference. We kept it in on the Senate side, but we went to conference with the House and we lost it because the House objected to it, by two or three votes. By two or three votes in conference we lost it. We came that close in 2002 to getting mental health parity.

What has happened since? Why have we fallen so far backward? Why hasn't the Senate, since that time, brought it up? As I said, in 2002, we did it. Since 2003, it has not even been brought up. Hopefully, in the next Congress, we will bring it up again, we will pass it again, like we did before.

For those who had the privilege of serving with Paul Wellstone, his spirit is still very much with us. He still inspires us and he still calls us to conscience. Each day that we fail to pass this legislation, as we have for years, we are cheating millions of Americans. Each day that we do not step up to the plate and provide adequate mental health coverage to our citizens, we cheat them from reclaiming their health and well-being, and we starve society of the talent, contributions, and productivity they have to offer. It is a disservice to society to sweep mental illness under the rug and to deny people access and coverage of adequate treatment.

Congress should make the Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act a priority for the 110th Congress. With widespread support and widespread need, passage of this legislation is long overdue.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM C. TORCH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Dr. William C. Torch of Reno, NV, who has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious Tibbetts Award. Significantly, Dr. Torch is the first individual from Nevada to receive this honor.

Each year the U.S. Small Business Administration celebrates the accom-

plishments of a handful of firms, organizations, and individuals nationwide with the Tibbetts Award, the agency's highest recognition for innovative technology. Named for Roland Tibbetts, the father of the Small Business Innovation Research Program, the award honors those who best exemplify the philosophy and doctrine of the SBIR Program. Recipients are selected based on overall business achievements, the economic impact of technological innovations, and demonstration of successful collaboration, among other factors. An individual may only win once in his or her lifetime.

Considering the purpose of the Tibbetts Award, I find it very appropriate Dr. Torch is a recipient. A neurologist specializing in sleep disorders, Dr. Torch has long been an innovative leader in modern, medical research, and social improvement. I have been very impressed by Dr. Torch's unique contributions to the field of medicine and the State of Nevada.

Dr. Torch is perhaps best known as the inventor of EYE-COM, a biosensor that monitors the frequency and speed of the human eye blink. Small enough to hide inside of a pair of glasses, EYE-COM uses an alarm to alert wearers if they begin blinking slower than normal. Already this technology has had profound social effects; it holds great potential for even more social and medical utility in the future.

For example, EYE-COM has improved the therapy and lives of many patients by allowing them to better interact with the world around them. In a 2002 interview, Dr. Torch said he hoped truckers and pilots would use EYE-COM to warn them if they were getting too tired, thereby increasing the safety of our Nation's airspace and highways. Law enforcement officers might also use the device to determine if individuals were driving while impaired. As I speak, researchers across the country are working to cultivate the inherent potential of EYE-COM.

Beyond being a noteworthy inventor, Dr. Torch has significant business achievements to his credit. He is the founder and director of the EYEcom Corporation, the Neurodevelopmental and Neurodiagnostic Center, and Washoe Sleep Disorders Center in Reno, NV, which is accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. He is also the founder of Sleep-Management, a Nevada corporation, specializing in jet lag and shift work fatigue research. From 1998 to 2003, he was the director of neurology at Northern Nevada Medical Center.

Dr. Torch, who has been licensed in Nevada since 1979, received his medical degree with distinction in research and a master's degree in neurochemistry from the University of Rochester. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the Brooklyn College. He completed a residency in pediatrics and a residency and fellowship in child and adult neurology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY.

The Tibbetts Award presentation ceremony is on September 26, 2006, in Washington. I wish to congratulate Dr. Torch on this significant achievement and express my confidence that he has great contributions yet to come. I hope that you will join me in recognizing Dr. Torch's significant achievement.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the 13th annual National Public Lands Day, which will be celebrated on Saturday, September 30. Covering nearly one third of America's total land area, public lands are part of the essence of our country. Today, I am pleased to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers around the Nation who will come together to improve and restore one of America's most valuable assets.

Since its inception in 1994, National Public Lands Day has helped foster communities of volunteers around the Nation. When it started thirteen years ago, there were 700 volunteers working in only a few areas. I am pleased to report that this year nearly 90,000 volunteers will work at over 800 locations to maintain and enhance countless acres of public land for the enjoyment of future generations.

Growing up in Searchlight—whether I was hunting or just hiking in the desert—I developed a great appreciation for public lands. Preserving these lands for both practical and aesthetic purposes is one of my top priorities.

Given that more than 87 percent of the land in Nevada is managed by Federal agencies, I know that I am not alone in recognizing the importance of public land. Nevadans understand that public lands serve many vital purposes in our State; from hiking and hunting to mining and ranching.

I would be remiss if I didn't also take time to recognize and thank the thousands of Federal employees who manage these lands year-round. The Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and other Federal land agencies help ensure that the complex patchwork of Federal land management in Nevada serves and adapts to the changing needs of our communities and the public at large. They provide a vital, although rarely reported, service to our Nation.

Through the month of October, volunteers and staff from land management agencies from across Nevada will gather at sites such as the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails Conservation Area, the Desert Tortoise Conservation Management Area, the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Lamoille Canyon, and the Nevada Northern Railway, among others. They will remove litter, construct walking paths, restore fences, post signs, and perform tasks that will improve our public lands for everyone who is fortunate enough to visit them.

Our public lands are part of what makes America a great nation. I voice