

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Act provides additional assistance beyond standard unemployment insurance. It also provides resources to retrain laid-off workers so they can get back to work.

In passing the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act, Congress determined to support workers who lose their job due to the vagaries of international trade. Can we not again determine that workers who are laid off as a direct result of a terrorist attack on the United States also deserve assistance?

The primary difference between my amendment and the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act is the inclusion of health care coverage for the displaced worker. We have had lots of discussion during this Congress about how to address the problems of the uninsured. Today is the chance for Members to take a courageous step that will prevent 140,000 workers and their families from joining the rolls of the uninsured.

Some have also said the best way to help workers is to keep the airlines going. That is about half right. We did the right thing helping the airlines, and that has protected thousands of jobs. The assistance bill did not do anything for those workers who were put out of a job or have no immediate prospects of being rehired and will now have to seek work in an economy that has slowed.

Last week, the President highlighted three things that should dictate the way we undertake efforts to stimulate the economy and help displaced workers. He said we should take actions that will, first, encourage economic growth. Second, we should be bipartisan and instead of creating new programs, we should make use of the programs that already exist and make them work better. I strongly agree.

My amendment is consistent with these principles. First, it will encourage growth by providing income assistance and job training benefits to airline employees who have recently been laid off.

Second, the amendment has bipartisan support. Senators FITZGERALD, BROWNBACK, and GORDON SMITH have signed on as cosponsors.

Finally, it makes use of an existing program, the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, that was put in place to help displaced workers in times of need.

While the President's plan is a step in the right direction, I believe we need stronger action at this time. As we did with the bailout and the disaster relief package, we need to act boldly. We need to make sure those airline industry workers who were laid off suddenly, with no time to make preparation, receive immediate assistance, obtain retraining, and are able to retain their health care. The President's package does not guarantee these benefits for everyone covered by my amendment.

I am extremely pleased this amendment is being supported by the airline industry. The airlines know their em-

ployees have been dealt a severe blow and deserve help. Our Governors have also known many communities around the country are going to be hard hit.

As Carl Sandburg once reminded us, "We are Americans. Nothing like us ever was."

Now is the time for us to stand together, and that means standing together behind our industries and our workers. Every day we delay, our economy suffers. Every day we delay, families struggle to pay bills. Every day we delay, children go without health insurance. Let us do what is right for those who need it most.

I am pleased my proposal has received bipartisan support, and I hope it will be adopted by the Senate. I ask unanimous consent that a letter from the Air Transport Association and a letter from a tripartisan group of 13 Governors be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, October 1, 2001.

HON. TRENT LOTT,
Republican Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER: The member airlines of the Air Transport Association deeply appreciate your leadership in obtaining the economic stabilization package enacted September 22. Without this assistance the very viability of the industry would have been in question.

Even with the adoption of the airline stabilization package many of our members have found it impossible not to furlough large numbers of employees. Just as the economic disaster that has befallen the airline industry is the result of our being used as an instrumentality of the terrorists, these dedicated employees face very serious adverse economic consequences. These employees, along with those still working, are the backbone of our industry. We are working very hard to put this difficult period behind us and, hopefully, bring them back as soon as the economic situation allows us to.

In the meantime, we strongly support the prompt adoption of legislation to provide these workers with displacement assistance including extended unemployment benefits, training and retraining, and the continuation of health care coverage. It is only fair and reasonable that we ensure that adequate provisions are made for the basic protections for the workers who face extreme economic hardship in the weeks and months ahead.

The airlines and their workers are inextricably linked in the battle against terrorism. We must ensure that all participants are adequately protected, and we urge the prompt enactment of worker relief legislation.

Sincerely,

CAROL B. HALLETT,
President and CEO.

OCTOBER 1, 2001.

HON. TOM DASCHLE,
Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

HON. TRENT LOTT,
Senator Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: We applaud the Congress' timely response to appropriate funds for recovery and relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating attacks of September 11th. Likewise, we strongly supported Congress-

sional legislation to assist the airline industry, which has suffered incredible financial losses.

However, we believe that the Congress should also provide assistance to displaced workers who have been laid off as a result of the ongoing security crisis. Airlines and related employers are laying off tens of thousands of workers, and industry experts are estimating that more than 130,000 people could lose their jobs. These displaced workers are going to need financial assistance—and because we do not know how long they will be out of work, it is important for the federal government to act now to ensure that the necessary assistance is available to those who might need it.

S. 1454, the Displaced Workers Assistance Act, would provide financial assistance, training, and health care coverage to those workers displaced due to the attacks of September 11, 2001. The benefits would be distributed within the framework created by the Trade Adjustment Act.

We are writing in support of S. 1454. States, of course, will finance the initial 26 weeks of unemployment assistance. However, federal financing of an additional 52 weeks of unemployment insurance and the extension of health coverage will protect those unemployed workers that might not otherwise have a safety net. The additional funding to help train those individuals who cannot be expected to return to the airline industry, and those who would need new training to prepare for a different job within the industry, is definitely needed. We also support providing 8 months of Medicaid to those who do not qualify for COBRA coverage, and 26 weeks of unemployment compensation to those who would not normally be eligible for their state programs.

It is difficult at this time to determine how long our displaced workers will be out of work. Obviously, they are going to need financial assistance. States will do their job to assist these vulnerable citizens, but we need the federal government to help provide the funds to do so. Please work with us to enact S. 1454.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

13 STATE GOVERNORS.

Mrs. CARNAHAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CLINTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from New York, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 having arrived, the Senate stands in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CLELAND).

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AVIATION SECURITY ACT

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I am not going to take long. I know there are other colleagues who are going to want to speak, but I do want to talk about where we are right now in this Senate Chamber. I want to try to do that not in an abstract way but in relation to what is happening throughout the country and, particularly, I want to talk about my State of Minnesota.

Yesterday we had a field hearing in Minnesota. It was a formal hearing of the Subcommittee on Employment, Safety and Training of which I am lucky enough to chair. It was just absolutely packed with people. I am not sure that is good news. I think it was packed with people because we have had a sharp economic downturn, and it affects a broad section of the population in Minnesota and around the country.

I said yesterday that I cannot remember—and I think I said this to the distinguished Presiding Officer—another time in my adult life when I ever felt as if our country was facing three challenges or crises and all at the same time.

One of them has to do with the world that we live in—military action, use of force in Afghanistan. I have said back home that I very much want this action to be successful. I think it is terribly important that it is with the most careful targeting. I think it is essential that we do everything we know how to do to minimize the loss of innocent civilian life.

I pray for the men and women of our armed services, and, frankly, I pray no innocent Afghan, or anyone else, is killed in this process.

I had a chance to talk with the Ambassador to Pakistan today and was asking her how things were going in her country. And she, too, talked about how it is so important that what we do militarily, and in many other ways, we do in the right way. Whatever we do has to be consistent with our own values. That means, above and beyond the use of force, dealing with the humanitarian crisis, dealing with the massive hunger and starvation in Afghanistan, and doing everything we can to minimize the loss of civilian life.

Then there is the whole question of physical security in our own country. Today Chairman KENNEDY and the HELP Committee had very powerful hearings. The distinguished Chair testified about his work and some of his legislation as to what we need to do to better defend our own homeland. Then there is economic security. What I rise to discuss briefly is my indignation about some of the opposition and delay. Quite often, one person's political truth is another person's political horror. We are all different, and political truth can be illusive. We have dif-

ferent ideas. People of good conscience can disagree. That always is the case, including now as well.

I have to say I don't really know how any Senator, Democrat or Republican, can go home, after we have provided \$15 billion of help for the airline industry—which we should have done; I don't think they are playing Chicken Little crying that the sky is falling in—now and be unwilling to provide the employees with help.

Senator CARNAHAN has an amendment, in which a number of us have joined—it makes all the sense in the world—extending unemployment insurance to a full year, picking up the cost of COBRA or helping people get Medicaid assistance—when you lose your job, the other thing that is so terrifying in our country is, you lose your health care coverage for yourself and your loved ones—making sure that that is there, making sure the funding is there for training. I am just amazed at the opposition to this amendment. I am amazed that we have been having to go through cloture votes, and now people want to burn up yet more time.

For my own point of view, I don't think we should move. Senator HOLLINGS is right that one of the best ways to get this industry back on its feet is to have people think they are safe. God knows the whole notion of federalizing the security forces is what the vast majority of people are for. That is apparently being opposed. There are other colleagues who talk about Amtrak and say there has to be a commitment to that as part of our transportation system. They are right.

What I want to relate today is what Senator DAYTON and other colleagues from Minnesota, Democrats and Republicans, heard at our field hearing, which was all the employees, 4,500 people out of work, who were asking: What about us? You helped the industry. Fine. But what about working families? What about us?

I said about a week ago now that I believe the people values are coming out in the country. September 11 and beyond, people really are very committed to helping one another. I can't quite figure out why that has not extended to the Senate.

There will be plenty of discussion about this in the Chamber, but as far as I am concerned, this is the place we draw the line. This airline security bill has to pass. If there is opposition to federalizing part of the security forces, so be it; we will vote on it. If there is opposition to providing the help to employees I just outlined, the Carnahan amendment, then we will vote on it. If there is opposition to other amendments, then we will vote on them.

I just can't, for the life of me, understand the opposition. I can't understand why we wouldn't want to help people flat on their back. Frankly, I don't want to go back home to Minnesota and face these employees and tell them that Congress was unwilling to provide the help.

I thank the majority leader and the whip, Senator REID, for their commitment. I am committed to this fight. We are unified as a country. There is no question about it. We have to be our own best selves. To me, part of being your own best self is to speak out and advocate for people you love and believe in who need help. That is what we are talking about right now.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I am pleased to yield.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that the Senator has offered a resolution—in fact, did so last week—commending the Capitol Police for the valiant work they did on September 11 and what they have done since then; is that true?

Mr. WELLSTONE. That is true. I did offer an amendment, and I was hoping that every single Senator would support it. I thought on Thursday or Friday maybe the whip could help me out. I actually submitted it. I didn't want to make a big hoo-ha about it. I wanted to thank the Capitol Police and thought maybe we would pass it by unanimous consent. Then we could send it out and let everyone know we have expressed our appreciation.

My understanding is, it has been blocked; is that correct?

Mr. REID. That is my understanding. We wanted that cleared last week, but somebody is holding this up. My friend knows how holds work. We have a general idea from where they come but not specifically from whom. I say to the Senator from Minnesota, he has always been such a supporter of the Capitol Police. He has always been thoughtful and kind to them. I have seen that as he walked through the Capitol. I personally am so grateful for the work they have done. Prior to September 11, I always felt really strongly about the work they did. Since September 11, my emotions have run much higher.

I commend the Senator from Minnesota for this resolution. I want him to know we are going to continue to talk about this resolution until it is cleared. Otherwise, we will try to figure out a way to get a vote on it so anyone who has the audacity to stand and not say to the Capitol Police they have done a good job will have to come forward and be counted.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I will not speak much longer. Let me say to the whip—who, by the way, also was a member of the Capitol Police, the only one in the Senate—I thank him. I don't even want to make a big deal of this. In fact, I am almost embarrassed about it. This now is going to become a point of contention? I am a pretty good rabble-rouser. I didn't think this would be something on which we would have to go this far.

My hope is that it will pass. I say to the whip that I would like to get his help, that if this doesn't clear today, then I will prepare an amendment. I would love to have the whip's support