

downsides of bankruptcy or their alternatives. These lawyers also are dragging down our economy. Bankruptcy should be reserved for those persons who have no other options, not for people who use clever legal advice to make big purchases on the eve of bankruptcy with no intention of ever repaying the debt because they can wipe away their debts clean, no questions asked.

So I will keep a watchful eye on developments in the future. But for now, almost one year later, bankruptcy reform seems to have been a success.

#### FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTHRAX ATTACKS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, In the autumn of 2001, while the Nation was still reeling from the reality of our airplanes being turned into weapons of terror, someone, somewhere, launched another deadly terrorist attack using our postal system to deliver their weapon of choice—anthrax. Those anthrax-laced letters targeting several journalists and public officials, among them Senator Daschle and myself, jarring an already fearful Nation.

Receiving that letter was a chilling and personal reminder that the threat of terrorism was not temporary, nor was it an ocean away. Thankfully, my staff and I were unharmed, but others were not so lucky. The terrorists who sent these letters struck 22 people ranging in age from 7 months to 94 years, and the attacks resulted in the deaths of five Americans. They were people who died by simply touching an envelope—in some cases the mail was addressed to them, and in other instances, it was an envelope meant for someone else. Yet all of these people died as a result of doing what so many of us do every day—our jobs.

Five years after those attacks and 5 years into the global war on terror, there is still no perpetrator who has been arrested or convicted for these attacks. Every year around the time of the anniversary—we learn that the FBI is still working on this case and that it remains a high priority for the Bureau. Many skilled and talented people have worked diligently on this case, bringing to bear some of the most advanced forensic technology in the world.

The victims of the anthrax attacks varied in gender, race, religion, age, economic status and locale, but they all shared in the suffering. The victims who suffered the most were employees of the U.S. Postal Service, of the Department of State, of news organizations and of the Senate, and the aides, the children, and the senior citizens whose mail came in contact with the anthrax-laden letters.

Robert Stevens, a photo editor at The Sun newspaper in Boca Raton, Florida, died on October 5, 2001, at the age of 63. Thomas Morris, Jr., a Washington, DC, postal worker, died on October 21 at the age of 55. Joseph Curseen, also a Washington, DC, postal worker, died on October 22 at the age of

47. Kathy T. Nguyen, a New York City hospital worker, died on October 31 at the age of 61. And Otilie Lundgren, a 94-year-old Connecticut retiree, died on November 21.

Many of those who survived anthrax exposure remain severely debilitated, suffering from chronic cough, fatigue, joint swelling and pain, and memory loss. Several victims have been diagnosed with depression and anxiety and are still tormented by nightmares. Many cannot return to work, and some of those who have returned are unable to do even routine tasks without difficulty. Victims say they communicate very little with one another, mostly fighting their battles alone.

On October 16, 2003, I introduced a bill to amend the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 to provide compensation for anthrax victims on the same basis as compensation is provided to victims of September 11. The bill never made it out of the Judiciary Committee. Without this appropriate help, the surviving victims struggle to pay their medical bills and get by on worker's compensation, and many report feeling like they have borne the brunt of the anthrax attacks alone. This surely exacerbates the emotional and psychological difficulties that many anthrax victims experience. Congress should act to help these people, who are victims of the national experience of these terrorist attacks, and they should be treated accordingly.

Congress and the American people hope for answers and for a resolution of this case. We hope that lessons have been learned from it that will help prevent or minimize future biological attacks. In the meantime, let us remember the loss and the suffering of those who fell victim to this deadly episode of terrorism on our soil.

#### IRAQ AND U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I have listened intently over the past few weeks as the President, members of his Cabinet, and Members of this Chamber have discussed Iraq, the war on terror, and ways to strengthen our national security.

For years, now, I have opposed this administration's policies in Iraq as a diversion from the fight against terrorism. But I have never been so sure of the fact that this administration misunderstands the nature of the threats that face our country. I am also more sure than ever and it gives me no pleasure to say this—that this President is incapable of developing and executing a national security strategy that will make our country safer.

As we marked the fifth anniversary of 9/11 this month, we recalled that tragic day and the lives that were lost in New York, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania. And we all recalled the anger and resolve we felt to fight back against those that attacked us. This

body was united and was supportive of the administration's decision to attack al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan. No one disputed that decision.

That is because our top priority immediately following 9/11 was defeating the terrorists that attacked us. The American people expected us to devote most of our national security resources to that effort, and rightly so. But unfortunately, 5 years later, our efforts to defeat al-Qaida and its supporters have gone badly astray. The administration took its eye off the ball. Instead of focusing on the pursuit of al-Qaida in Afghanistan, it launched a politically motivated diversion into Iraq—a country with no connection to the terrorists who attacked us. In fact, the President's decision to invade Iraq has emboldened the terrorists and has played into their hands by allowing them to falsely suggest that our fight against terrorism is anti-Muslim and anti-Arab, when nothing could be further from the truth.

But instead of recognizing that our current policy in Iraq is damaging our national security, the President continues to argue that the best way to fight terrorists is to stay in Iraq. He even quotes terrorists to bolster his argument that Iraq is the central front in the war on terror. Just recently, he told the country that Osama bin Laden has proclaimed that the "third world war is raging" in Iraq" and that this is "a war of destiny between infidelity and Islam."

Instead of letting the terrorists decide where we will fight them, the President should remember what he said on September 14, just 2 days after 9/11. He said, and I quote, "[t]his conflict was begun on the timing and terms of others. It will end in a way, and at an hour, of our choosing." The President was right when he said that, and he is wrong to suggest that we must stay in Iraq because that is where the terrorists want to fight us. We must fight the terrorists where they don't want to fight us—and that means engaging in a global campaign, not focusing all of our resources on one country.

The way to win a war against global terrorist networks is not to keep 140,000 American troops in Iraq indefinitely. We will weaken, not strengthen, our national security by continuing to pour a disproportionate level of our military and intelligence and fiscal resources into Iraq.

Unfortunately, because of our disproportionate focus on Iraq, we are not using enough of our military and intelligence capabilities for defeating al-Qaida and other terrorist networks around the world. While we have been distracted in Iraq, terrorist networks have developed new capabilities and found new sources of support throughout the world. We have seen terrorist attacks in India, Morocco, Turkey, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Spain, Great Britain, and elsewhere. The administration has failed to adequately address the terrorist safe haven that has