

Page 176 7 Thank you very much 8 for the opportunity to speak. 9 I used to be a commercial jet 10 finance specialist. I left that career a few 11 year ago because of problems I suffered from 12 LASIK, chronic pain from dry eye and reduced 13 vision. 14 I started several years ago a small 15 nonprofit organization for people with 16 complications of laser eye surgery. It is 17 called Laser My Eye. 18 Dry eye quickly emerged as the 19 leading problem that we were facing from 20 people seeking out help. As a result of that, 21 I went on to start a company called The Dry 22 Eye Company to try and find more resources for Page 177 1 people with dry eye. 2 That company runs a number of 3 informational websites for people with dry eye 4 syndrome. A large percentage, of course, of 5 the people that come there are suffering from 6 severe dry eye after LASIK, seeking out help. 7 One of the things that we do is 8 collect little known products that can help 9 people with dry eye that they are not learning 10 about from their doctors. 11 I missed the deadline to request a 12 speaking slot here, because I was too busy 13 working with these patients that are looking 14 for help after LASIK. I took a Redeye here 15 from Seattle last night, because I could not 16 tear myself off the phone. 17 I spoke yesterday morning with a 18 man in Arkansas for about an hour and a half 19 who was suicidal. He was three months post-op 20 from LASIK, and what he kept telling me was, 21 Rebecca, why didn't anybody tell me this could 22 happen? Why didn't anyone tell me how bad it Page 178 1 could be? They told me I could get dry eye. 2 It was on the form. I understood, but they 3 said we'll give you some drops, we'll give you 4 some plugs; it will be okay, and it will 5 probably go away quickly. 6 I get these kinds of calls every 7 day, all day long. The vast majority of my 8 time is spent speaking with patients who are 9 going through this, not three months after 10 surgery, but six months, 12 months, three 11 years, six years after surgery, people who 12 have done everything and been everywhere. 13 They have traveled to national and 14 international experts, and they have not found 15 remedies, and I don't have answers for them. 16 There's been a lot of talk here 17 today from the industry saying we care, but I 18 am not seeing the compassion. I want to see 19 it. 20 There are a lot of doctors here 21 today. I wish they could be flies on the wall 22 of my office during the day, hearing the Page 179 1 wreckage of the patients' lives and their 2 families' that are just looking for help. 3 I agree with the presenter that 4 said that depression and anxiety and suicide 5 are not -- they don't come from a single 6 factor, not just from the fact that they had 7 LASIK, absolutely not. 8 It is because they did not get 9 proper informed consent. They went through 10 the surgery. They did not get treated 11 properly afterwards. They wandered from 12 doctor to doctor afterwards. No one 13 understood their problems. They haven't had 14 solutions to the problems that they are 15 facing, financial problems. 16 They are facing a host of factors, 17 all related to the LASIK. It is not about the 18 20 minute surgery. It is about what came 19 before and about what has come after it. It 20 is the lack of solutions for them. 21 Few people understand that dry eye 22 pain after LASIK can drive people absolutely Page 180 1 to distraction. I can't tell you how many 2 people I know are on short term or long term 3 disability now because of this kind of pain. 4 They need help. 5 If the industry were interested in 6 helping, if they are interested in helping, 7 they need to rally around the consumer groups 8 that are looking for help. They need to come 9 to us with practical solutions to help. Plugs 10 and drugs are not doing it for us. 11 We've got people we talk to that 12 have been everywhere. They have volunteered 13 for every clinical trial going. They are 14 scrounging together anything they can to just 15 hold it together from day to day. 16 I don't organized notes for 17 presentations for you today. I am simply 18 overwhelmed with the need. I feel like triage 19 nurse with all these people coming, seeking 20 help, for whom I just

don't have enough 21 answers, and that is what I am here for today, 22 just to appeal to you for help to prevent more Page 181 1 of this, and to help us get solutions for the 2 people that are facing problems from LASIK. 3 Thank you for giving me the time.