POST-ABORTION DEPRESSION RESEARCH AND CARE ACT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Post-Abortion Depression Research and Care Act, a bill to provide hope and healing for the more than 35 million women in this country who have had abortions in the past twenty-eight years.

The Post-Abortion Depression Research and Care Act will direct federal funding for the research of post-abortion depression and the development of successful treatments for emotional distress in post-abortive women.

I have been working on this legislation because I believe that it is a travesty that more work has not been done to support women who have chosen to have an abortion. We cannot simply abandon these women. Because of the emotional issues that often surround a woman's decision to have an abortion, many women are reluctant to even talk about their experiences. Some women don't come to terms with the emotional impact of their abortion until years later. I believe that increased research on post-abortion depression will lead to a greater awareness of this issue and the development of compassionate outreach and counseling programs to help post-abortive women.

We already know much about the psychological impact of giving birth and of miscarrying, and yet much remains to be discovered about post-abortion depression. Why should women who choose to have an abortion be given any less care and concern than women who give birth or women miscarry? Post-abortive women deserve equal treatment.

While there is some disagreement among researchers as to the extent and substance of post-abortion emotional response, everyone agrees that the decision to have an abortion is fraught with emotion. It only makes sense, then, to continue to explore the psychological impact of abortion on women.

I urge my colleagues to support post-abortive women by cosponsoring the Post-Abortion Depression Research and Care Act. Let's not let politics get in the way of good mental health care for women.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA RAVINETT MARTIN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrea Ravinett Martin, an extraordinary leader, a national treasure and a great friend.

Andrea Martin is the founder, the Executive Director and the living soul of The Breast Cancer Fund, a national public trust nonprofit established to innovate and accelerate our nation's response to breast cancer.

A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Andrea graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Newcomb College of Tulane University in New Orleans and went on to earn a Masters degree in French before moving to San Francisco, California in 1969. Three years later, she entered law school at the University of California Hastings and began a career in litigation which would last until 1980, at which point, Andrea opened a Memphis-style barbeque restaurant called Hog Heaven. Years later, having sold the popular San Francisco establishment, Andrea participated as a fellow in the Coro Foundation's City-Focus program, a year-long training program in civic leadership. In May 1988, Andrea, the proud mother of her daughter Mather, married her second husband, Richard Gelernter.

Just eight months after their wedding day—and two weeks after losing her sister-in-law to breast cancer—Andrea discovered a seven centimeter invasive tumor in her right breast. Told she had a 40 percent chance of survival and less then five years to live, Andrea Martin underwent six rounds of chemotherapy, a mastectomy, six weeks of radiation, and a final eight rounds of another chemotherapy protocol. Just one month after the completion of her treatment in 1990, Andrea went back to work, joining Dianne Feinstein's campaign for governor of California. Two months into the campaign, however, the nightmare returned, when Andrea discovered a tiny lump in her remaining breast. Just as quickly as before, she opted for a mastectomy and returned to work two weeks later.

Throughout both her personal and professional life, Andrea Martin has consistently strived to transform her personal adversity into a triumph for humankind. While working for Feinstein, Andrea also began raising money to combat breast cancer, organizing a series of events and activities to heighten awareness and increase funding for the prevention and treatment of this devastating disease.

In October 1992, Andrea Martin founded the Breast Cancer Fund, a national public trust nonprofit that has grown and become one of the preeminent organizations nationwide dedicated to fighting breast cancer. The Fund operates through a wide variety of activities to raise awareness and new sources of funding for cutting-edge projects in breast cancer research, education, advocacy and patient support.

Andrea works full time directing the Fund and traveling across the country to give talks and to consult with researchers, health care providers and breast cancer organizations. A reliable and expert source on breast cancer prevention and treatment, Andrea Martin is frequently called upon by Members of Congress as well as state and local governments to share her insights and counsel on major public policy endeavors. A member of the External Advisory Board to the Breast Cancer SPORE at the University of California in San Francisco, Andrea also serves on numerous advisory committees to the California Division of the American Cancer Society.

In addition to her Breast Cancer Fund activities, Andrea Martin has an extraordinary history of accomplishments, honors and achievements. She's a model of courage for the thousands of women who are diagnosed each year with breast cancer. In 1995, Andrea joined 16 fellow breast cancer survivors in climbing 23,000-foot Aconcagua in the Argentine Andes.

Today Andrea faces another extraordinary challenge in addition to the many she has overcome * * * a malignant brain tumor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a woman who has brought hope and courage to millions of women around the world, and as we honor her and her work, we promise our prayers as she fights to overcome this challenge successfully.

CONGRESSMAN SCARBOROUGH ON THE RETIREMENT OF KARIN WALSER

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a person who has made a great difference in the lives of many people. She has brought hope to the hopeless, love to the unloved and light to the lives of children who have known only darkness.

For over a decade now, Karin Walser has been the driving force behind an organization called ''Horton's Kids.'' Karin's amazing energy level and commitment to those less fortunate than her have made Horton's Kids a shining example of how we all can reach out and greatly impact other's lives.

Too often, we are brought to our knees in despair over the plight of those living in seemingly hopeless conditions. Too often we convince ourselves that there is nothing that one person can do to change the terrible course of a suffering child's life. But Karin has never been driven to despair or cried out in helplessness. Instead, her spirit is sparked by such overwhelming challenges.

Bobby Kennedy once told a group of students in South Africa not to believe that an individual was helpless to cure the world's ills. In a speech he delivered two years to the day before his death, Kennedy said, ''Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.''

The walls of oppression were torn down in South Africa two decades after Kennedy's death. But they still act as borders in neighborhoods less than five minutes from the Capitol.

Karin Walser's life has been dedicated to ripping those walls down piece by piece. And with the help of her fiiends and other Capitol Hill staffers, I truly believe these walls will come tumbling down sooner now that Karin is leaving Capitol Hill to join Horton's Kids full-time.

While we will miss Karin, just as we all miss Joe Moakley, I am sure she will never be far from us—or our telephones. Sure, she'll be calling for volunteers, or contributions, or anything else she can think of to help Horton's Kids, but we will all gladly answer her call because we know that together, Karin and Horton's Kids will continue to make a great difference in the lives of our area's most disadvantaged children.

Thank you for all you have done and all you have meant to your hundreds of friends on Capitol Hill. You're not too bad for a left-wing radical.

COMMON SENSE NEEDED ON ARSENIC ISSUE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the August 2, 2001, Lincoln Journal Star. The editorial highlights the need to move beyond the rhetoric and examine the arsenic issue in a rational manner.

Clearly, it is important to get the full story and listen to those who would be most affected by the proposed changes. Many State and local officials as well as water system administrators have expressed concern about the problems which could be caused by the proposed changes. Everyone recognizes the importance of providing safe drinking water for all of our Nation's citizens. Also, some changes in the arsenic standard may well be justified. However, it makes sense to base these changes on sound science rather than emotion.

[From the Lincoln Journal Star, Aug. 2, 2001]

OF ARSENIC, AND ART OF GOVERNING

President George Bush is getting a bum rap on the arsenic issue.

New EPA chief Christine Whitman was neither wacko nor callous when she withdrew new standards for arsenic in drinking water proposed by the Clinton administration that slashed the previous limit by 80 percent.

Neither was Nebraska's entire House delegation oblivious to health concerns when it voted shoulder-to-shoulder—unsuccessfully—against a proposal to force the administration to restore the new standards.

The real reason Bush is undergoing such a bludgeoning on arsenic is because it's so easy for his political enemies to portray him as a heartless boob. Arsenic is nasty. Who could possibly be against removing this poison from our drinking water?

Real life, however, is often complicated, involving tradeoffs in which the costs and payoffs are matters of speculation. As a New York Times story put it, ''. . . the setting of environmental risks is as much art as science, one that entails innumerable assumptions about risks, costs and benefits.''

The Clinton administration proposed to cut the allowed level for arsenic from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion.

Earlier the administration had toyed with the idea of setting the limit at 5 parts per billion, but decided that would be too expensive. So it upped the new limit to 10 parts per billion. That's still too low for many of Nebraska's communities. The city of York will have to ante up $12 million to meet the new regulation. The city of Alliance will have to spend $6.5 million, or $650 per person. In all, the new water regulations would cost 51 Nebraska communities $97 million.

One may notice that folks in those communities have not been perishing in huge numbers of arsenic-related diseases during the past 50 years. The health benefits of change in arsenic standards involve relatively small numbers in comparison with the nation's 281 million residents.

The reduction in the arsenic level is estimated to prevent 37 to 56 cases of bladder and lung cancer and 21 to 30 deaths annually throughout the nation, according to The New York Times. If the standard were set at 20 parts per billion, the benefit would diminish to preventing an estimated 19 to 20 cases of bladder and lung cancer, and 10 to 11 deaths per year nationally.

Most European countries have set arsenic levels at 20 parts per billions. The World Health Organization recommends 10 parts per billion.

Often unnoticed in the rhetoric over arsenic is that fact that the new regulation was not scheduled to take effect until 2006. Whitman's withdrawal of the new regulation allowed for nine months more study on the ''art'' of setting environmental standards. Her action hardly deserves the contempt it unleashed.

ON THE 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate India on it 53rd anniversary as an independent democratic republic.

Fifty-three years ago India under the leadership of Mahatma Ghandi forged a path towards freedom and democracy by declaring its independence from Britain. With independence India undertook anew a responsibility as a voice of other newly independent nations in the post-colonial world.

India is the world's largest democracy, and in the next fifty years it will become the worlds most populous nation. As we celebrate India's independence it is important for us to reflect on the achievements of the previous 53 years while at the time looking forward to the future.

India and the United States share much in common. Both countries sought independence to create great nations based on freedom and liberty. Both nations also sought to establish a more prosperous future for its people.

As we enter a new century it is important for the United States to recognize India's importance as a great democracy and as a force for stability in South Asia. While India faces many challenges it has nonetheless undertaken an important role of working towards greater prosperity and stability in the region.

India is of immense strategic importance to the United States. Being the only democracy and one of three nuclear powers in the region India has the potential to be a force for economic development and political stability.

South Asia is a vast region that faces many challenges, from the civil war in Afghanistan to great poverty that still haunts much of the region. It is therefore vital for the United States to maintain a dialogue with as many nations in the region as possible. India's cooperation in brining about stability to the region will be essential.

Over the past ten years the United States and India have taken concrete steps to improve their bilateral relations. Trade, investment, and military cooperation have played a major role in bringing the two nations closer.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the India Caucus I have come to recognize the importance of India in South Asia. I am also proud to have worked on making additional funds available to India and other nations of South Asia for the creation of regional emergency institution similar to our own FEMA, so that we can save more lives in a future natural disaster.

As you know Mr. Speaker, President Clinton worked very hard to foster U.S.–Indian relations and to bring greater regional stability. I encourage President Bush, to continue America's leadership in South Asia. I particularly encourage President Bush to call upon Pakistan to return to a democratic government and to work with India for peace in Kashmir.

As the United States Representative of the second largest South Asian community in the Untied States I would like to congratulate India on this achievement, and seek greater understanding and relations between our two great democracies.

TRIBUTE TO ANDY COMBS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I rise today to publicly thank a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for his tireless efforts on behalf of the good people of Oregon's Second Congressional District. Andy Combs recently departed my staff to pursue a law degree at the University of Oregon. I wish him well in this new endeavor and know that he will excel both in law school and as a lawyer.

Andy comes from Dora, a small town on the southern Oregon coast. He graduated from my alma mater, the University of Oregon, and after serving admirably as a staff member in the Oregon Legislature he embarked to Washington, D.C. to join my staff. He brought those desirable ''small town values'' to the nation's capital and to how he treated the people who sought assistance from my office.

Andy was more than just ''the guy at the front desk.'' He helped families get the inside track to the sights and sounds of Washington, D.C. Time and again, he brought history alive as he led tours of the Capitol for people who had come nearly 3,000 miles so that their children could better understand the federal government and our bold history. Andy arranged their tours, took their calls, answered their questions. In short, Mr. Speaker, Andy made their day and their trip.

I can't think of a time during his service in my office that a visitor went away disappointed. He attended faithfully to every detail and literally went the extra mile to make sure families could see the White House, the Capitol and other sights in the area.

Moreover, Andy made Oregonians feel at ease and at home when they walked in the door. He possesses that warm and helpful attitude that is too often lacking in a big city. I have a significant stack of letters from Oregonians that took the time to write after their trip to Washington, D.C. to thank me for Andy's treatment of them and his dogged determination to make sure their experience was memorable, Andy was also instrumental in recognizing when something needed to be done, taking the initiative to complete myriad projects and lend others a helping hand.

His ability and intellect will serve him well as a member of the bar. And his likeable attitude will serve him well in the courtroom. In short, Mr. Speaker, Andy's a difficult person to replace. Andy, thanks for a job well done and good luck in the future.