

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 barbecue 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 than 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 Walsler 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 Walsler's life has been dedicated to ripping those walls down piece by piece. And with the help of her friends 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.