

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, June 7, 2002.

Hon. TOMMY THOMPSON,
Secretary of Health and Human Services, De-
partment of Health and Human Services,
Hubert Humphrey Building, Washington,
DC

DEAR SECRETARY THOMPSON: We write to request a review of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) fact sheet FS #35.3, labeled "Abortion and Breast Cancer." As we work together to make sure the American public has the most accurate and up to date information on health risks, especially related to the serious disease of breast cancer, we wanted to specifically ask for a review of the official NCI information on the link between abortion and breast cancer. Even though this fact sheet was updated March 6th of this year, we believe it is scientifically inaccurate and misleading to the public.

Even though, to date, 28 out of 37 scientific studies worldwide, and 13 out of 15 in the United States show a positive association between abortion and breast cancer risk, the NCI fact sheet on this topic emphatically states "The current body of scientific evidence suggests that women who have had either induced or spontaneous abortions have the same risk as other women for developing breast cancer." This glossing over of the weight of published scientific evidence does not provide the public with the information they deserve.

Furthermore, it seems inappropriate for the NCI to rely so heavily on one study to support its claims regarding abortion and breast cancer. The NCI fact sheet relies on Melbye et al., 1997, although that study contains many significant flaws. In particular the Melbye study: misclassified 60,000 women as not having abortions when, in fact, the women did undergo an abortion; included medical records that did not consistently record a history of abortion; and, included over 350,000 women who were generally too young to be diagnosed with breast cancer because their ages were twenty five years of age and younger. We believe NCI has given this flawed study too much weight and that the entire body of evidence needs to be revisited as soon as possible.

We respectfully request that the fact sheet be reevaluated for accuracy and bias and that it be removed from the Department website until that review is completed. We thank you for your attention to this important health issue and to our concerns about the NCI fact sheet on the link between abortion and breast cancer.

Sincerely,

Christopher Smith; Joseph R. Pitts; John Shadegg; W. Todd Akin; Joe Wilson; Robert B. Aderholt; Walter B. Jones; Sue Myrick; Milissa A. Hart; Sam Johnson; Roscoe G. Bartlett; Todd Tiahrt; Pete Hoekstra; Bob Schaffer; Mike Pence; Gil Gutknecht; Van Hilleary; Henry E. Brown, Jr.; Jim Ryun; Barbara Cubin; Dave Weldon; Jim DeMint; John Sullivan; Mark Souder; John N. Hostettler; JoAnn Davis; Ernest Istook; Cliff Stearns.

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE FACT SHEET ANALYSIS, THE ABORTION—BREAST CANCER CONNECTION (ABC LINK), NATIONAL PHYSICIANS CENTER FOR FAMILY RESOURCES (NPC), APRIL, 2002

Overall tone of denial of abc link: ". . . it appears that there is no overall association between spontaneous or induced abortion and breast cancer risk, . . ." even though, to date, 28 out of 37 studies worldwide and 13 out of 15 in the U.S. report a positive association.

Confusion of induced and spontaneous abortion: These two terms appear together

repeatedly, as if they are equivalent. Never is the proper equation of spontaneous abortion and miscarriage made; in fact, the word miscarriage never appears. Yet paradoxically, the "inability to separate induced from spontaneous abortions" is offered as a criticism of earlier studies on the abc link.

Misrepresentation of the published medical literature on the abc link:

(a) A key study on American women which relied on prospective medical records (Howe et al., 1989), and which found a significant abc link (overall RR = 1.9), is not cited at all, even though much more weight is given to data "from studies that collected data on abortion history before the breast cancers occurred", and even though it is presented as a weakness that "Most of the early studies relied on self-reports of induced abortion".

(b) The study specifically funded by the NCI to examine the abc link (Daling et al., 1994), which study reported a significant overall link (RR = 1.5) and much higher risks for teenagers (RR = 2.5) and actually reported "RR = □" for teenagers with any family history of breast cancer, is not cited at all.

(c) The only comprehensive review and meta-analysis on the abc link (Brind et al., 1996), which reported a positive association in 18 out of 23 studies worldwide (9 out of 10 in the US), is not cited at all.

Reliance on flawed studies which do not show an abc link, merely because they are based on prospective data, namely:

(a) the study by Melbye et al., 1997, even though it misclassified 60,000 abortion-positive women as abortion negative, used breast cancer records which antedated abortion records, and included over 350,000 women under age 25, among other flaws;

(b) the study by Goldacre et al., 2001, even though it misclassified over 90 percent of the abortion-positive women in the study as abortion-negative;

(c) the null studies by Newcomb and Mandelson (2000) and Lazovich (2000), even though both are so small (23 and 26 patients with induced abortion, respectively) and of such low statistical power that neither could even detect a RR as low as 1.5 with statistical significance.

Inclusion of inaccurate statements, i.e.:

(a) "In three of the (four) studies, information was based on medical records than on the woman's self-report;". In fact, this is true of only two (i.e., Goldacre and Newcomb & Mandelson) of the four studies referred to.

(b) "The strength of this study (Melbye 1997) include . . . the ability to account for breast cancer risk factors that may differ between those women who have had abortions and those who have not;". In fact, the lack of such data on potential confounders was a weakness of the Melbye study, which only adjusted for age and age at first term pregnancy. Most studies also adjust for age at menarche, age at menopause, etc.

(c) "Most of the early studies necessarily relied on self-reports of induced abortion, which have been shown to differ between breast cancer patients and other women." In fact, the opposite is true. Even the only study cited on the fact sheet which examined this question reported: "The authors' data do not suggest that controls are more reluctant to report a history of induced abortion than are women with breast cancer."

Disguising the established breast cancer risk factor that is directly affected by abortion in a substantial proportion of abortion patients, i.e.: "Well established breast cancer risk factors include . . . a late age at the time of the first birth of a full-term baby". Abortion, which, in childless girls and women, necessarily delays the first full-term pregnancy, is not mentioned at all in this context.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1214,
MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SE-
CURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1214, the Port and Maritime Security Act of 2002 Conference Report. As many of you know, I have been privileged to represent the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach for the past 10 years. Each day these ports receive cargo from points around the globe. The San Pedro Bay port complex is the third largest seaport in the world. These ports are responsible for over 30 percent of all U.S. waterborne trade with an estimated value of \$162 billion a year. The bulk of these imports arrive in 20- or 40-foot containers aboard some of the world's largest cargo ships. Additionally, our ports handle millions of cruise passengers annually. Insuring the safety of containers and passengers entering and exiting the ports of this country is a daunting task. Currently, only about 2 percent of the shipping containers entering the country are inspected. This simply will not do. Passing this comprehensive port security legislation will insure that more containers are inspected and that our ports are properly protected.

I am particularly pleased that Section 203 of this legislation incorporates a bill that I introduced in the 106th Congress. This section authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the American Merchant Marine Veterans Memorial Committee to construct an addition to the American Merchant Marine Memorial Wall of Honor in San Pedro, California. Thus far, the Committee has already raised well over \$500,000 to begin construction on the second phase of this memorial. Plans for the addition to the memorial call for panels to list the names of those who died while serving in the U.S. Merchant Marine.

Since 1775, the maritime community has played a critical role in gaining and preserving American freedom. The Merchant Marine served as our first Navy and defeated the British Navy in our fight for independence. We owe much to the brave mariners past and present who have served in the Merchant Marine. The American Merchant Marine Memorial Wall of Honor located in San Pedro, California, is a symbol of the debt we owe those who have served so bravely.

Many of my colleagues will remember how the Merchant Marine secured its place in American history during the Second World War. During that conflict, the 250,000 men and women in the U.S. merchant fleet made enormous contributions to the eventual winning of the war, keeping the lifeline of freedom open to our troops overseas and to our allies. This fleet was truly the "Fourth Arm of Defense" as it was called by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and other military leaders.

The members of the U.S. Merchant Marine faced danger from submarines, mines, armed raiders, destroyers, aircraft, "kamikaze," and the elements. At least 6,800 mariners were killed at sea and more than 11,000 were wounded at sea. Of those injured, at least 1,100 later died from their wounds. More than 600 men and women were taken prisoner by

our enemies. In fact, one in 32 mariners serving aboard merchant ships in the Second World War died in the line of duty, suffering a greater percentage of war-related deaths than all other U.S. services.

Since that time, the U.S. Merchant Marine has continued to serve our nation, promoting freedom and meeting the high ideals of its past members. It is fitting to honor the past and present members of the U.S. Merchant Marine. This is why I introduced legislation in the previous Congress that would provide additional federal funding for the memorial wall in San Pedro. Twice the House has approved legislation authorizing funds for this worthy memorial, today I am pleased that the House and Senate are moving to approve this authorization in the port security conference report.

Throughout the development of the conference report, I have sought to provide the greater protection for ports and the communities that surround them against terrorist attacks. I am pleased that the conferees have included port security grants and research and development grants that will encourage the development and use of state-of-the-art technology. Like the conferees, I believe it is important to encourage the private sector to continually advance the state of the art as a means of enhancing detection capabilities and thus enhancing deterrence over time.

When he is reviewing project proposals and awarding grants, I encourage the Secretary of Transportation to give preference to those projects that incorporate technologies that are capable of automatically detecting shielded nuclear weapons, liquid and other explosives, and chemical and biological agents weapons in fully loaded cargo containers without the need for humans to open the containers to manually inspect them. Based on testimony received by the Congress, it would appear that pulsed fast neutron technology is capable today of meeting this need. As a result, I hope that this technology and other technologies will be identified, developed, and installed in our ports as part of the ongoing process of enhancing port security through this legislation.

Long Beach State's Center for the Commercial Deployment of Transportation Technologies (CCDoTT) has been developing maritime technology for many years, and has recently turned their attention to port security technology as well. In the FY03 Defense Appropriations bill CCDoTT was granted \$4.3 million for continuation of their important work to develop more efficient cargo handling in ports, high-speed ship designs, and port security research. This funding will allow the center to continue assessing cargo inspection technologies that can help meet the needs of agencies such as the U.S. Customs Service and the Coast Guard.

Section 70107 of the accompanying report authorizes an additional \$15 million for fiscal years 2003 through 2008 for research and development grants for port security. I am pleased that report language for the Port and Maritime Security Act of 2002 particularly notes the importance of the research being done at Long Beach State's Center for the Commercial Deployment of Transportation Technologies. This language encourages the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Defense to obligate any current and prior year appropriations under the continuing cooperative agreement. The Center is sponsored by the U.S. Maritime Administration and U.S.

Department of Defense and I am certain it will continue to provide invaluable research for America's maritime interests. Again, I am pleased with, and strongly support, this timely port security legislation.

PROJECT 19

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave American civilians who volunteered to assist our allies in the fight against an enemy that was threatening democracy for the entire world. These patriotic Americans chose to enter World War II to participate in a mission referred to as Project 19.

In the fall of 1941, prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt met with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to discuss the United States assisting Britain in its battle with Hitler's Reich.

President Roosevelt responded by authorizing a secret Air Depot to be established and operated by American civilian volunteers in Eritrea, East Africa under the direction of Douglas Aircraft Company. Due to the fact that the U.S. had not yet entered the war and for obvious diplomatic reasons, Project 19 was classified as "secret."

The goal of the volunteers, also referred to as "Tech Reps" and "Feather Merchants," was to assemble P-40's and repair hundreds of worn out and damaged allied aircraft, first for the Royal Air Force (RAF), and after America entered the conflict, B-24's and B-17's for the United States Army Air Corps. When this group of freedom loving Americans first began their volunteer mission, they helped the RAF repair planes that had been damaged during horrific battles. When the secret mission was terminated, many volunteers joined the military to fight alongside our allies and some of them gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives.

Many lives have been affected by the sacrifice these valiant men made and I believe the time has come to recognize these heroes who volunteered their services and their lives to their country and its allies.

Mr. Speaker, as long as our Nation is served by men and women who place the defense of freedom above their personal safety and well being our Nation will endure. The men of Project 19 served with pride and distinction, and deserve the recognition of our Nation and this Congress.

THANKING MY CONGRESSIONAL
STAFF

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, the end of a congressional career brings about many emotions. Over the last twenty years I have happily spent representing the fine people of the 17th Congressional District of Pennsylvania I have had the pleasure of working with thousands of constituents, local, state and federal officials, and many former and current distin-

guished members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. To all of them I say, thanks for working with me towards a better America.

And, of course, every Member of Congress works with many, many competent staff, from the staff in their own personal offices to the Committee and Subcommittee staff and the leadership and floor staff. It has often been said that without staff where would this institution be? And I concur with that statement, for without the many fine staff with whom I have had good fortune to work, I and other Members of Congress of the United States would be far worse off. While I cannot mention all the fine staff who have worked with me over the years, let me at least mention the current personal and subcommittee staffers who have endeavored to achieve our common goals and to whom I give my hearty thanks and wish them well in their future careers.

In my Harrisburg district office, Arlene Eckels, my long-time personal secretary who has worked for me since the early days in the Pennsylvania State Senate and to whom I wish a happy and much deserved retirement; Tom Templeton, my hardworking district director, who so ably kept my entire district staff working smoothly; Suzanne Stoll, an old friend and superb caseworker; Paul Giannaris, whose ability to handle INS problems has made him invaluable; and Tim Vollrath, a recently returned former employee whose military and veterans help has been superb. In our Lebanon Office, Reg Nyman has been the voice of Lebanon for these many years, and his excellent knowledge and service will be missed. And in our Elizabethtown office, Susan Melendez has kept our Lancaster County constituents well served by her kind and efficient manner. Over the last twenty years my district office staff has handled hundreds of thousands of phone calls and constituent casework requests. A superb record by a superb staff.

My Washington office staff have proven themselves time and time again, regularly going beyond the call of duty. (The tally of my hundreds of legislative measures, nearly 30 Public Laws, thousands of office meetings and countless committee and other initiatives over the years speaks truth to that assertion.) First, on my personal staff, Patrick Sheehan, my Counsel and Legislative Director, has been a dynamic and intelligent thinker and leader, who offered sage advice on immigration, military and veterans affairs; Greg Herman, my Senior Legislative Counsel kept pace with my many Judiciary and legislative demands especially bankruptcy reform and appropriations (as I would expect from a Palmyra, PA native); Becky Smith, my office manager and health legislative assistant, kept my schedule and personal affairs humming along smoothly and ably managed my most favorite of projects, the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus of which I was founder and Co-Chairman; David Greineder, who did a multitude of duties as my talented systems manager, legislative correspondent and Legislative Assistant covering education and labor issues; Bill Tighe, another LC and Legislative Assistant whose insights into the Agriculture and Natural Resources needs of Pennsylvania and the district were more than invaluable, they were accurate; Mike Shields, my recent press secretary extraordinaire, who did an excellent job under difficult situations; and, of course, Alan