

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Pérez de Alejo was detained in 2003 for handing out copies of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights. Despite being detained, and knowing full well the brutal consequences that await those brave men and women that speak the truth under the nightmare that is the Castro regime, he continued to advocate for human rights for the people of Cuba.

Unfortunately, Mr. Pérez de Alejo was arrested on March 18, 2003, as part of Castro's heinous island wide crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

While confined in the inhuman squalor of the gulag, Amnesty International reports that Mr. Pérez de Alejo has not been able either to receive or to send correspondence in the same way as other prisoners. It has also been reported that he is suffering from several debilitating diseases in the totalitarian gulag. Let us be very clear, he is languishing in a hellish dungeon, unable to communicate with the outside world, because he peacefully advocates for liberty.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that, in the 21st century, brave men and women are chained to filth because of their belief in the inalienable nature of freedom, and the sanctity of human rights for every person. My colleagues, tonight the democratically elected leader of the United States of America will deliver the State of the Union address to a joint session of our freely elected Congress. As we listen to President Bush address our free Nation, let us also remember those who are suffering to secure their own liberties, in their own countries. We must demand the immediate release of Arturo Pérez de Alejo Rodríguez and every political prisoner locked in the dungeons of tyrants.

RIGHT TO LIFE ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that, if passed, will once and for all protect our unborn children from harm. Over 1.3 million abortions are performed in the United States each year and over 38 million have been performed since abortion was legalized in 1973. This is a national tragedy. It is the duty of all Americans to protect our children—born and unborn. This bill, the Right to Life Act, would provide blanket protection to all unborn children from the moment of conception.

In 1973, the United States Supreme Court, in the landmark case of *Roe v. Wade*, refused to determine when human life begins and therefore found nothing to indicate that the unborn are persons protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. In the decision, however, the Court did concede that, "If the suggestion of personhood is established, the appellants" case, of course, collapses, for the fetus' right to life would be guaranteed specifically by the Amendment." Considering Congress has the constitutional authority to uphold the Fourteenth Amendment, coupled by the fact that the Court admitted that if personhood were to be established, the unborn would be pro-

ted, it can be concluded that we have the authority to determine when life begins.

The Right to Life Act does what the Supreme Court refused to do in *Roe v. Wade* and recognizes the personhood of the unborn for the purpose of enforcing four important provisions in the Constitution: (1) Sec. 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment prohibiting states from depriving any person of life; (2) Sec. 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment providing Congress the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provision of this amendment; (3) the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment, which concurrently prohibits the Federal Government from depriving any person of life; and (4) Article I, Section 8, giving Congress the power to make laws necessary and proper to enforce all powers in the Constitution.

This legislation will protect millions of future children by prohibiting any State or Federal law that denies the personhood of the unborn, thereby effectively overturning *Roe v. Wade*. I firmly believe that life begins at conception and that the preborn child deserves all the rights and protections afforded an American citizen. This measure will recognize the unborn child as a human being and protect the fetus from harm. The Right to Life Act will finally put our unborn children on the same legal footing as all other persons. I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this important effort.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Prescription Drug Affordability Act. This legislation ensures that millions of Americans, including seniors, have access to affordable pharmaceutical products. My bill makes pharmaceuticals more affordable to seniors by reducing their taxes. It also removes needless government barriers to importing pharmaceuticals and it protects Internet pharmacies, which are making affordable prescription drugs available to millions of Americans, from being strangled by Federal regulation.

The first provision of my legislation provides seniors a tax credit equal to 80 percent of their prescription drug costs. While Congress did add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare in the last Congress, many seniors still have difficulty affording the prescription drugs they need in order to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. One reason is because the new program creates a "doughnut hole," where seniors lose coverage once their prescription expenses reach a certain amount and must pay for their prescriptions above a certain amount out of their own pockets until their expenses reach a level where Medicare coverage resumes. This tax credit will help seniors cover the expenses provided by the doughnut hole. This bill will also help seniors obtain prescription medicines that may not be covered by the new Medicare prescription drug program.

In addition to making prescription medications more affordable for seniors, my bill lowers the price for prescription medicines by reducing barriers to the importation of FDA-ap-

proved pharmaceuticals. Under my bill, anyone wishing to import a drug simply submits an application to the FDA, which then must approve the drug unless the FDA finds the drug is either not approved for use in the United States or is adulterated or misbranded. This process will make safe and affordable imported medicines affordable to millions of Americans. Mr. Speaker, letting the free market work is the best means of lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

I need not remind my colleagues that many senior citizens and other Americans impacted by the high costs of prescription medicine have demanded Congress reduce the barriers which prevent American consumers from purchasing imported pharmaceuticals. Congress has responded to these demands by repeatedly passing legislation liberalizing the rules governing the importation of pharmaceuticals. However, implementation of this provision has been blocked by the Federal bureaucracy. It is time Congress stood up for the American consumer and removed all unnecessary regulations on importing pharmaceuticals.

The Prescription Drug Affordability Act also protects consumers' access to affordable medicine by forbidding the Federal Government from regulating any Internet sales of FDA-approved pharmaceuticals by State-licensed pharmacists.

As I am sure my colleagues are aware, the Internet makes pharmaceuticals and other products more affordable and accessible for millions of Americans. However, the Federal Government has threatened to destroy this option by imposing unnecessary and unconstitutional regulations on web sites that sell pharmaceuticals. Any Federal regulations would inevitably drive up prices of pharmaceuticals, thus depriving many consumers of access to affordable prescription medications.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to make pharmaceuticals more affordable and accessible by lowering taxes on senior citizens, removing barriers to the importation of pharmaceuticals and protecting legitimate Internet pharmacies from needless regulation by cosponsoring the Prescription Drug Affordability Act.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE PROGRAM UPON ITS 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Fairfax County Health Department Adult Day Health Care Program as it prepares to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

The Fairfax County Adult Day Health Care centers provide a safe, fun and therapeutic environment for the frail, the elderly and adults who need supervision during the day due to cognitive and/or physical impairments. Each center has a registered nurse who monitors the health status of each participant; a therapeutic recreation specialist who designs daily activities to enhance cognitive and physical function and to offer opportunities for socialization; and several program assistants who