

recruited by other law enforcement agencies to do undercover work. In his undercover capacity, he has been fortunate; he has never had to draw his gun.

You cannot work undercover and not have a good sense of humor, and Eugenio Solis indeed possesses that. He is a famous kidder and practical joker, which can often mean that when he's swept up with the druggies to avoid detection, his fellow officers will leave him handcuffed for several hours in good-humor retribution.

Even in his retirement, he continues to work—currently with a drug task force in Kingsville. Mr. Speaker, the men and women on the front lines in our drug war are necessarily in the shadows, their faces unseen and their names unknown * * * because that is the way the business works.

He has a strong, loving family to support him. That support is vitally important to an agent whose business requires him to deprive his family of his time and attention. Druggies do not keep a schedule. His wife, Sylvia—and their children: Eugenio III and Eduardo, and granddaughter, Shelby—have been his greatest support network.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Eugenio Solis for his years of dedication to law enforcement, for standing on that thin blue line that protects our neighborhoods from the bad guys.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ESSAY CONTEST

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kate Wagoner, a 13-year old resident of Eugene, Oregon. Ms. Wagoner, an eighth grader at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, recently won an essay contest held in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The theme of the essay contest was how Americans can be peacefully patriotic, even as the clouds of war loom on the horizon.

In her insightful essay, Ms. Wagoner notes that peaceful change can begin with one individual or one family who cares about others and acts on that compassion. However, she goes on to write that it is equally important for such individuals to influence the decision-making of those in power in order to guarantee a lasting peace.

As Ms. Wagoner concludes, if the United States dedicates itself to helping feed, clothe, house, and educate the needy around the world, then we may be able to achieve the "nonviolent" coexistence of which Dr. King spoke, rather than the "violent co-annihilation" of which he warned.

I would encourage my colleagues and others to read Ms. Wagoner's essay, which I've included at the end of my remarks.

Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ESSAY

Almost 40 years ago, on April 14, 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King said, "the greatest 17 purveyor of violence in the world today (is) my own government."

Dr. King's statement is still a powerful message because America continues to use

violence around the world. President Bush is pushing for a war in Iraq, while nations like North Korea, South Korea, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Israel, and Palestine suffer from U.S. foreign policy decisions.

How can Americans be peacefully patriotic while our government gives the U.S. military more and more to do around the globe? To repeat one of my mother's favorite quotes, "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have." (Margaret Mead, American anthropologist).

During the holidays, my family gave money to an organization that helps hungry people all over the world feed themselves. The families we help receive donations of goats, sheep, llamas, honey bees, geese, oxen, and other farm animals so they can be more self-sufficient and live healthier lives. Peaceful patriotism is like this donation.

Around the world, kids like me are starving. Around the world kids like me are soldiers and suicide bombers. Around the world kids like me get sick from drinking dirty water, get shot by soldiers, and step on land mines. Around the world, kids like me struggle to survive. Americans, as peaceful patriots, can help change some of these kids' lives.

Americans have a right to be proud of their country. This is a nation where people can be and do great things. However, imagine a world where America is also known as a nation that helps people around the globe be and do great things. When the richest and most powerful nation in history dedicates itself to making sure people everywhere are well-fed, housed, clothed, educated, and have hope for the future, peaceful patriotism will change the world.

It is not enough for my family to practice peaceful patriotism or for your family to make that choice. We have to have people in power making decisions about our relationships with other nations who share our hope for the future of America and of the world. We can each live as peaceful patriots and help many people now, but if we work together to create a nation of peaceful patriots tomorrow, we can make all the world safe; and secure for kids like me.

The message I want quoted in the future because it describes America is, "The greatest purveyor of peace in the world today is my own government."

PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

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. As many of my

colleagues have pointed out, our nation's seniors are struggling to afford the prescription drugs they need in order to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. Yet, the Federal Government continues to impose taxes on Social Security benefits. Meanwhile, Congress continually raids the Social Security trust fund to finance unconstitutional programs! It is long past time for Congress to choose between helping seniors afford medicine or using the Social Security trust fund as a slush fund for big government and pork-barrel spending.

Mr. Speaker, I do wish to clarify that this tax credit is intended to supplement the efforts to reform and strengthen the Medicare system to ensure seniors have the ability to use Medicare funds to purchase prescription drugs. I am a strong supporter of strengthening the Medicare system to allow for more choice and consumer control, including structural reforms that will allow seniors to use Medicare funds to cover the costs of prescription drugs.

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-approved 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 U.S. 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 these provisions have been blocked by the federal bureaucracy. It is time Congress stood up for the American consumer by removing 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.