

laws. Unlike the King Cove Health & Safety Act, which is subject to national environmental laws, the King Cove Access Project is "notwithstanding any other provision of law." It is inappropriate to exempt the Izembek refuge from federal environmental laws in this manner.

The Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, on the Alaska Peninsula, is internationally recognized as one of the most important wetland reserves in the Northern Hemisphere. Home to threatened and endangered species, as well as millions of migratory birds, the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and Izembek Wilderness are keys in the fight to conserve the natural diversity of wildlife populations and habitats. A road through the refuge will inevitably damage the refuge's critically important habitat.

The King Cove Access Project ignores environmental laws, threatens important wildlife habitat and sets a dangerous anti-wilderness precedent. The 17-mile road proposal is not compatible with the purposes of the refuge, as established by ANILCA, or with the Wilderness Act. The King Cove Access Project rider is terrible policy and terrible process.

FAIRNESS TO CONTACT LENS CONSUMERS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3140, "The Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act of 2003," which provides contact lens wearers with important new rights. This bill ensures that unscrupulous eye doctors will no longer be able hold consumers' contact lens prescriptions hostage, forcing them to purchase lenses solely from their doctor's office. In addition, this legislation will make shopping for lenses simpler and cheaper.

Currently, eye doctors are only required to give patients their prescriptions for eyeglasses. Eyeglass wearers have had this right since 1978, when the Federal Trade Commission issued a regulation granting eyeglass wearers the right to automatically receive a copy of their prescription following an exam. Contact lenses were understandably not included in this regulation because, at the time, most contacts were hard lenses, which were custom-made to fit each patient. Today, most contact lenses are mass produced, soft lenses that do not require manipulation by eye doctors. As a result of this improvement, today's contact lens wearers should have the same right as eyeglass wearers to obtain their prescription, at no additional charge. That is why I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act.

Approximately 36 million Americans wear contact lenses. Each year, these Americans spend an estimated \$3.5 billion on contact lenses. Providing consumers with an automatic right to their prescriptions will allow them to shop around for contact lenses based on price, service, and convenience. It is estimated that H.R. 3140 could save consumers approximately \$350 million annually, thanks in large part to increased competition. Competition among contact lens companies will result

in lower prices, a greater choice of lens providers, and more convenient ways to fill contact lens prescriptions.

H.R. 3140 is bipartisan legislation supported by both optometrists and retailers. I have been working on this issue for a number of years, and am pleased to "see" it pass the House in a bipartisan manner. I encourage the Senate to take up this bill and help contact lens wearers receive this right.

HONORING MR. SARGENT SHRIVER

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues in support of H. Con. Res. 299, a resolution honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver for his dedication and service to the United States of America, for his service in the United States Navy, and for his lifetime of work as an ambassador for the poor and powerless citizens of the United States of America. Growing up with a role model like my uncle, Sargent Shriver, doesn't allow much room for failure. He has served our nation in countless ways and on multiple fronts. When he retired from the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander, he could have ended his public service career then, and been proud of his accomplishments. But he chose to continue to serve our nation when President Kennedy appointed him the first Director of the Peace Corps. Sargent Shriver exceeded expectations for the initiative by developing volunteer programs in more than 50 countries around the world.

Sargent Shriver and his wife, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, went on to establish the Special Olympics during the 1960's, when those with mental retardation were often institutionalized because of a lack of understanding of their needs and abilities. The Shrivens recognized the importance of challenging these individuals with physical activities, when others simply cast them aside. The Special Olympics brought courage to their lives and taught them the value of teamwork, and proved that people with mental retardation were strong and caring individuals who could be successful and independent. The Special Olympics has grown exponentially under the Shrivens direction. When given the position of president of the Board of Directors of the Special Olympics, Sargent Shriver, again, reached out to other nations to bring together people of all nationalities to compete in the games. In 1985, athletes from 14 countries were represented at the Special Olympics Winter Games in Utah, and today, more than 1 million athletes participate in the Special Olympics in over 150 countries.

I hesitate to end my remarks with this short list of what Sargent Shriver has accomplished in his life. Unfortunately, I am not sure if there is anyway to accurately reflect the number of lives he has touched as our nation's ambassador, through Head Start and the Special Olympics, to name a few. But I am sure that even at the age of 88, he will continue to add accomplishments to this list of public service, and he will continue to touch the lives of people around the world.

OXYCONTIN CONTINUES TO DESTROY LIVES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, over the past year I have been writing to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and Food and Drug Commissioner Mark McClellan urging their action to curb the continuing abuse of the powerful prescription painkiller, OxyContin. In many of those letters I have enclosed newspaper articles about another life destroyed by this drug.

Their inaction is perplexing. The death toll continues to rise and thousands of lives continue to be ruined because of the abuse of this drug. When will they do something to stop this tragedy?

I want to submit the letters I have been sending to Secretary Thompson and Commissioner McClellan over the past six months.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,

Washington, DC, March 28, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY THOMPSON,

Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY THOMPSON: In December 2001, the Commerce-Justice-State and the Judiciary appropriations subcommittee held a hearing on the illegal diversion of the prescription drug OxyContin, a pain-killing Schedule II narcotic manufactured by Purdue Pharma L.P. One of the witnesses, the father of recovering OxyContin addict, told a gripping story of the devastating impact the drug has had on his family and his son, who was in his early 20s. He proudly told the committee how his son had just finished rehab and had kicked his addiction. Sadly, a few months after appearing before the subcommittee, the son died as a result of abusing the drug.

When used properly, OxyContin is considered a wonder drug, especially for the terminally ill cancer patients. I know what it is like to see people suffer from cancer. Both my mother and father died of cancer. I can remember my mother constantly asking the nurses for more morphine but being told she couldn't have any more. My mother was in a great deal of pain. OxyContin, if it had been available when she was dying, probably would have made her a lot more comfortable at the end.

When used illegally, however, OxyContin destroys families and communities. It also can lead to death. This powerful painkiller has increasingly become a drug of choice for people who choose to abuse it by chewing it or grinding it up. By disabling the time release mechanism in OxyContin, abusers get a heroin-like high.

Initially, cases of abuse and illegal diversion occurred primarily in poor, rural communities in Virginia, Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio. Abuse is no longer limited to Appalachia. The drug has found its way to urban areas and there are now reports of widespread abuse as far away as Arizona. Florida, I am told, has been hit extremely hard.

Several pharmacies in my congressional District have been robbed at gun point in recent months for OxyContin. No money was taken; the robbers only demanded the drug. Earlier this month, a prominent defense lawyer in northern Virginia who twice served as a local prosecutor in Prince William County

pleased guilty to Federal drug charges linked to a large-scale investigation into the illegal distribution of OxyContin and other painkillers.

Communities where the illegal drug has taken hold are being completely destroyed. I am told there is one county in southwest Virginia where no one isn't either using the drug, knows someone using the drug or been the victim of a crime by someone needing the drug.

When a professional baseball player recently died after taking the dietary supplement ephedra, your agency immediately issued fact sheets regarding potential serious risks of dietary supplements containing ephedra. You were even quoted as cautioning all Americans about using dietary supplements that contain ephedra.

According to fact sheets produced by the FDA, two deaths, four heart attacks nine strokes and five psychiatric cases involving ephedra have been reported. More than 240 people have died from the abuse of OxyContin and countless numbers of families and communities have been torn apart by this drug.

Your agency has done a good job educating the public about the dangers of ephedra and other dietary supplements. I urge you to initiate a similar public information campaign about the dangers of abusing OxyContin.

I have previously written to your department asking for a review of the marketing of OxyContin and its classification for treatment of moderate to severe pain. The Food and Drug Administration did change the warning label on OxyContin but more needs to be done. The drug should not be marketed to treat moderate pain. I urge you to no longer allow OxyContin to be prescribed for moderate pain.

Too many people have died, too many families have suffered and too many communities have been devastated by the improper use of this drug.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce-
Justice-State and the Judiciary.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: I want to share two newspaper articles about OxyContin that I came across since our meeting Thursday. One is from a paper in my District; the other is from a paper in Florida. Both are very troubling.

I trust you will give this issue the attention it deserves.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 11, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave., SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY THOMPSON:

As a follow up to my March 28 letter on OxyContin, I want to share with two recent newspaper articles that I recently came across. One is from a paper in my District; the other is from a paper in Florida. Both are extremely troubling.

OxyContin, when used properly, is a wonder drug. When abused, it is destroying families and communities.

Please look at this issue.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave., SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. THOMPSON: Here's another news article from my District and another death. I am waiting to hear what you are going to do.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: I want to share with you two news articles I recently came across concerning the marketing of OxyContin. The articles stem from the investigation undertaken in 2001 by the Florida Attorney General. Several sensitive company documents were initially sealed but two Florida papers have successfully sued to make the information public. I have highlighted some extremely troubling sections in the articles. Please take action.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC., April 30, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: I wanted to be sure you saw this letter by Pennsylvania State Senator LISA BOSCOLA. This is tragic.

The FDA needs to address this issue.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC., May 13, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave., SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. THOMPSON: The attached article ran in a newspaper in my District on Monday. Please step in and do something to prevent OxyContin from being allowed to be prescribed for moderate pain. The drug is destroying communities, families and careers.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC., May 13, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: The attached article ran in a newspaper in my District on Monday.

The FDA needs to step in and do something OxyContin should not be allowed to be prescribed for moderate pain. Too many families, communities and careers are being destroyed.

Please take some action.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC., May 21, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: Enclosed is another news story from my District and another death.

I am waiting to hear what FDA is going to do.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 5, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: The enclosed article is from today's Washington Post. When are you going to take some action? Please do something.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave., SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. THOMPSON: See the enclosed article from today's Post.

You have to do something before things get worse.

When a professional baseball player died after taking the dietary supplement ephedra, your agency took immediate action to warn the public about the dangers of taking such supplements. Sadly, the same cannot be said when it comes to your agency's efforts on OxyContin.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: The enclosed article from today's Post speaks for itself.

Please take some action. What are you waiting for.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: The enclosed brief was in today's Post. You have to do something. What more evidence do you need that there is a problem?

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave. SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. THOMPSON: I wanted you to see this brief in today's Post. As you can see the OxyContin problem has no boundaries.

Thank you for your response to my earlier letters. I hope we can come up with some solutions.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 28, 2003.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services, Independence Ave. SW., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. THOMPSON: The enclosed article describes another tragic account of OxyContin abuse.

How many more stories do we have to read about this problem before you take more action?

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 28, 2003.

Dr. MARK MCCLELLAN,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. MCCLELLAN: The enclosed article describes another tragic account of OxyContin abuse.

How many more stories do we have to read about this problem before action is taken?

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HONORING THE CIVIC LEADERSHIP
OF ROBERT SIDNEY AND GAIL
PHELAN

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Robert Sidney and Gail Phelan, fine public servants who have dedicated themselves throughout their lives as loyal citizens to our community.

The couple married in 1958, months after Gail had been crowned Miss Trenton. They are members of the 1st United Methodist Church of Trenton and the proud parents of Robert Sidney Phelan, Jr., Paul Edmund Phelan, and Mary LeAnn Phelan. Robert and Gail also have three grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Robert operated the family business, a Ford automobile dealership, for 50 years, before selling it. He has since started a smaller independent dealership. In 1963, Robert became the acting Postmaster while continuing to run his auto dealership. He also served in the Tennessee National Guard, from which he retired as a First Lieutenant. With the help of U.S. Senator Jim Sasser, Robert was instrumental in establishing a new National Guard Armory in 1991.

He has served as Exalted Ruler of the Trenton Elks Lodge and President of the Trenton Chamber of Commerce. Robert also served on the Trenton Rotary Club, the Gibson County Election Commission, the Trenton Housing Authority Board and the Trenton Industrial Board. He served on the board of Citizen State Bank, spending some of that tenure as Chairman. Robert worked diligently to form Citizen City and County Bank, where he now serves as Chairman of the Board.

The Phelans have always been devoted to the Democratic Party on local, state and national levels, including involvement with generations of Tennessee governors, Members of Congress and Vice President Al Gore. Their son Paul served for 10 years as a State Representative.

The family was instrumental in the formation of the Trenton Special School District and years later helped replace the aging school building with a new high school. Believing that Gibson County could support a satellite community college, Robert and Gail also helped raise money to fund Dyersburg State Community College in Trenton.

Gail has dedicated much of her life to the education of her children and others in our community. She has always been very involved in school parent organizations and takes an active role in making our schools better, including beautiful murals in school hallways.

Gail has not limited her helpful involvement to working with children, however. A cancer survivor, she has been an active participant in Relay for Life efforts of the American Cancer Society and has helped counsel others who are also battling cancer, using her own experiences to help comfort those around her.

Mr. Speaker, please join Robert and Gail's friends and family as we recognize their dedication and service to our community.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR DAVID
PENDERGRASS OF SAND CITY,
CALIFORNIA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I am able to rise today to recognize Mayor David Pendergrass, a dedicated public servant of Sand City, California. Mayor Pendergrass has served Sand City for 25 years, where throughout his tenure as a Mayor-Councilmember, Mayor Pendergrass has distinguished himself as a strong leader.

Under Mayor Pendergrass' leadership, the City of Sand City has been enhanced in many different ways. He has overseen the establishment of an active redevelopment program and agency, the organization of a modern city government with a City Administrator-Council administrative structure, and maintained an ongoing forum to receive and respond to citizens' concerns. Furthermore, Mayor Pendergrass has been able to keep Sand City's focus on its primary goals with diplomacy, patience, and consideration.

Mayor Pendergrass' committed public service has improved the quality of life at Sand City, California. He has made great contributions, and his lifelong dedication to public service is commendable. His achievements are truly honorable, and I along with the City of Sand City, honor this great man.

WRITING BY VICKI WILSON

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to share with my colleagues this editorial written by my courageous friend Vicki Wilson. In it she describes her very personal story about her pregnancy and a procedure that was re-

quired to save her life. As Vicki rightly points out, the ban on so-called "partial birth abortion" prevents women—along with their families and doctors—from making private decisions about saving their own lives and protecting their right to future pregnancies.

A short while ago, the House debated the so-called "Partial Birth Abortion" ban. Several members who supported the ban tried to deny Vicki's story.

Those Members didn't know what they were talking about. Here is the truth as printed in the San Jose Mercury News.

[From the San Jose Mercury News]

HEARTBREAK AND A CHOICE: I HAD AN
ABORTION AT EIGHT MONTHS

(By Vicki Wilson)

The right to end a pregnancy is frighteningly precarious, something I didn't understand until I had an abortion at eight months. The new abortion ban covers what is not actually a recognized medical procedure; "partial birth" was coined by the anti-choice lobby to rile public sensibilities and distort the truth.

At 36 weeks of pregnancy, an ultra-sound showed what all my previous parental testing failed to detect—an encephalocele. Two-thirds of my daughter's brain had formed outside her skull. What felt to be strong, big, healthy baby movements were in fact seizures.

My doctor sent me to several specialists in a desperate attempt to find a way to save her. Everyone agreed she would not survive outside my body. As the pregnancy progressed before I went into labor, she would probably die from the increased compression of her brain.

Our doctors explained our options. Let "nature take its course." But how could I let my daughter suffer the ongoing seizures? Second: Abortion. My God! I thought. Here I am at the end of a planned and very much wanted pregnancy: Her name is Abigail. How can one even utter the word "abortion" now? Despite being a nurse, I'd never heard of any abortion in the eighth month. I asked about a Caesarean section. Doctors perform C-sections only to save babies lives. Mine couldn't be saved so they didn't want to risk the possibility of hurting my future fertility. It was a risk I wasn't willing to take either.

We agonized over our options, which doesn't convey the heartbreak and rage we felt. It was hard even to think of these "choices." I wanted my daughter to be born with a brain—period. We decided to make our choice based on what was best for Abigail.

As health-care professionals, my husband and I understood the medical risks of each alternative. We understood that it wasn't "is she going to die"—a higher power had decided that—but "how?" To this day, I thank God that this decision, at least, was ours.

I continue to battle the anti-choice hardliner machine from banning the very procedure that saved my health and ended Abigail's suffering. When will politicians understand: The decision about terminating a pregnancy should be between women, their family and their doctors—not politicians. While I was struggling with the most wrenching choice I have ever made, it never occurred to me to confer with a lawyer or a judge or a politician.

Those opposed to abortion for any reason declare that women are selfishly choosing to end their pregnancies late. They deny medical necessity; they'd rather see Abigail suffer and me lose my fertility than allow us to choose the most decent path for our family.