

Murkowski	Roberts	Stabenow
Murray	Rockefeller	Stevens
Nelson (FL)	Sarbanes	Sununu
Nelson (NE)	Schumer	Talent
Nickles	Sessions	Voivovich
Pryor	Shelby	Warner
Reed	Smith	Wyden
Reid	Snowe	

NOT VOTING—14

Allen	Inouye	Mikulski
Biden	Kerry	Santorum
Bunning	Kohl	Specter
Corzine	Lautenberg	Thomas
Edwards	Lieberman	

The nomination was confirmed.
 The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President will be notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.
 The Senator from Kentucky.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business, with Senators entitled to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I did not hear what the unanimous consent request was.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I was just asking unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators entitled to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mrs. BOXER. Fine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from California.

CALIFORNIA FOREST FIRES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today with great anxiety about what is happening in my State. You can see here behind me the view of one of the fires that is burning from the vantage point of a fireman. These fires have become the worst wildfires Californians have seen in decades. In less than 1 week they burned nearly twice as many acres as are burned statewide in the average fire year.

The numbers in my statement today may already be obsolete. Things are moving that fast in terms of property damage, homes destroyed, and so on. The wildfires range from as far south as the Mexican border to as far north as Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. They have consumed a total of more than 400,000 acres or 625 square miles. To put that in perspective, that is three times the size of Chicago. The fires are devouring businesses and homes and sometimes entire neighborhoods. More than 900 homes have already been destroyed and perhaps 30,000 more are in danger. I know people are without electricity in areas throughout the State. Many are escaping with only the clothes on their backs, and families

have had no time to gather anything other than their loved ones as they flee from an inferno that engulfs everything it touches.

More than 50,000 people have been evacuated and the numbers continue to climb. Thirty-six evacuation centers have already been set up in the five county areas. I spent pretty much all of yesterday speaking to mayors and council members and county supervisors and to Governor Davis. I talked three times to the head of FEMA, and I spoke with Andrew Card, the President's chief of staff, who was most helpful. The message I had for the President, through Mr. Card, was: Please, move quickly, as quickly as you can, to declare a national disaster because without that, we simply cannot get these fires under control. It has taken a while, but in the last couple of hours we had our declaration.

This is very important because it means the Forest Service can now go beyond its budget, because its budget is limited, and contract with departments all over the country to bring in the help we need.

I have been through a lot of disasters in my State. I served on the board of supervisors of Marin County. I have seen fires and floods and earthquakes, and then, as a 10-year Congresswoman, I have seen all this. I have not seen anything to this degree where we still don't have our arms wrapped around this problem. We don't have the problem contained, whereas usually when we have these disasters, we are up here saying we need to set up the FEMA agencies where we can now go and have people get repaid and get loans for their businesses and homes, and we will do that in time. That is very important. But right now we need to put out the fires.

I thank Nevada and Arizona. They have helped. They have sent between 25 and 50 firetrucks with personnel to our State.

I will give you another look at San Diego. This is the harbor. You can see it just has the eeriest look to it. You can see the flames in the background.

We also want to say that we have received 50 tanker trucks, and 12 air tankers are coming tomorrow. This is all good news for the people of San Diego. Supervisor Jacob was at her wit's end yesterday because she was not getting enough help. The other areas, the mutual aid, seem to be working better, but San Diego came along afterwards, and I have been very worried about them.

The crown jewels of California's beautiful landscape, our beautiful forests, have been hurt. We are going to have legislation that will in fact allow us to do fuel reduction close to communities. It is very important, when we have a bill that relates to our forests, that we put the money where it is needed, which is near the communities, and that we make sure that what we do will in fact help the communities.

The bill we are talking about is the Forestry and Community Assistance

Act, written by Senator LEAHY and myself. There are other proposals. I hope we can come to an agreement that the time is now to help our communities and to provide the resources to help them, not the big logging people, because that is the fight we are always waging.

Air traffic across the Nation has been disrupted by these fires. Hundreds of flights in and out of southern California have been canceled or suspended. Our brave firefighters, more than 7,000, are frantically working in conjunction with the California Department of Forestry, the U.S. Forest Service, California Highway Patrol, the Red Cross, and now, happily, FEMA, which are very much involved to contain these fires.

Many are still raging out of control. I want to be back here as soon as I can to talk about how we can rebuild our communities. But today we are talking about fires that are raging out of control.

I thank White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card. I thank FEMA Director Michael Brown. I did try to call Tom Ridge. Unfortunately, he was out of the country, but I spoke with his people and again with many of the local people.

In closing, let me say that my heart is with the people of San Bernardino County where two major fires are burning: The Old fire—by the way, we think arson was to blame for that fire. I have written to the Attorney General and will call him in the hope that he will invite in the FBI to get to the bottom of who would do such a deed. The other fire in San Bernardino is the Old Fire, 24,000 acres. The Grand Prix is 52,000 acres. In San Diego, there were three major fires. Everyone is struggling to make sure they don't merge.

We do have 48,000 customers without power in San Diego. In Otay, 35,000 acres are burning. The Cedar Fire in San Diego has been the deadliest one: 9 deaths, 300 homes destroyed, 150 in Scripps Ranch. The Paradise Fire in San Diego: 160 structures were destroyed, 75 cars, 2 deaths, and so far not contained. In Los Angeles County, it is the Verdale Fire, 9,000 acres. In Ventura, there are two major fires, Simi Valley and Piru. We are very worried about those. And at Riverside, there is one major fire. The Governor has not yet asked for an emergency declaration in Riverside, but it may come to that. If it does, I am very hopeful that the President will act on that request as well because we have lost six homes in Riverside, and the size of the fire there is 11,000 acres.

This declaration by the President is welcome news for us.

We need to put aside all politics now. We have an outgoing Governor. We have an incoming Governor. We all have to just join hands in this because our people are scared. They are filled with anxiety. They want this over. They want to go on and rebuild their lives. I join with my colleague in expressing my condolences to those who

have lost family. My deep hope is that we will contain these fires. We will save additional lives, we will shelter those who have been displaced, and we will rebuild.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I join with my colleague, Senator BOXER, with some remarks about the fire. This fire is actually far more serious than any fire I have seen, and I have spent some time now becoming familiar with forestry practices and fires.

Before a fire is under control, it has to be contained, and virtually no aspect of these 10 fires are contained tonight. As my colleague said, they have taken 13 lives; they have destroyed 1,100 homes; they have burned over 400,000 acres, and that is two-thirds the size of Rhode Island. Virtually no fire is contained and firefighters must conduct an evacuation to move people out.

Senator BOXER gave you the latest figures on some of these fires. But there is one fire I wish to point out and that is the fire heading toward San Diego. Mayor Murphy of San Diego said to me last night that the fire is pointed like a spear into the heart of San Diego. It is running through housing projects, crossing freeways, and it is extremely dangerous. These fires are virtually all over—from Los Angeles down to the Mexican border. I will soon print in the RECORD the specific statistics about each one.

Like my colleague, I spoke four times with Mike Brown. He was in Albuquerque. I am pleased that he is headed to southern California. He has cut redtape, brought in 22 additional engines, 3 strike teams, firefighters from northern California are headed to the south, and teams coming in from surrounding States. We are very grateful for that.

I am also grateful to the President for declaring a Federal state of emergency for San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties.

The State declaration has also been called by Governor Davis, and Federal disaster assistance will now include aid to individuals and households, aid to public agencies for emergency services, and repair or replacement of disaster-damaged public facilities, and funding for measures designed to reduce losses to property. The Federal Government has already provided fire management assistance grants for at least eight wildfires in southern California. These grants reimburse the State for 75 percent of the cost of fighting the fire.

My sadness and concern about these wildfires are not confined to those who lost their lives and their properties, but it is also the reality that they were entirely predictable, and new ones will also burn across my State.

I believe we must take steps now to reduce the harm of forest fires. These conditions are all familiar to us—drought, densely packed forests, unhealthily crowded with little trees.

For decades, we have put out the ground fires that would otherwise clear out the brush. The result is huge fuel loads of small trees and brush, which is perfect kindling for a catastrophic fire. In areas such as San Diego County, where there is more brush than forests, fire suppression has likewise created such a tangle of brush that fires often cannot be stopped.

The Santa Ana winds are another factor. These hot, dry winds blow often in the fall, and they don't just occur in southern California. The 1991 fire in Oakland and Berkley was fanned by similar devastating winds. They come every year. We know they are coming, yet we have not adjusted our forest practices to deal with them.

Hundreds of thousands of dead and dying trees from infestation, such as the bark beetle, remain untreated, trees unremoved, with as many as 90,000 people living in bark beetle-infested forests in San Bernardino County, with only one-leg roads to get them out in case of catastrophe.

With all these conditions for disaster in place, I have feared for some time now that California could face a devastating season of wildfires, and that seems to be just what is happening right now. So I believe we need to take action now, not just to correct our mismanagement of the forests and the brush but for a more basic reason.

We need to act in advance because of the terrible fact that most of the deaths that occurred in these fires did so because people had too little time to escape. At least seven people, so far, have died as they tried to escape the cedar fire in the narrow Wildcat Canyon area near the Barona Ranch Indian Reservation in San Diego County. People died on foot, people died in their cars, people died still trapped in their homes. At least two children died while trying to escape with their parents.

The fires travel just too quickly, and hillside roads are too narrow and too winding to count on people being able to get out.

Let me give you one story. Violet Ingrum lived in San Diego's Scripps Ranch neighborhood. She went to bed Saturday night worried mainly about her daughter, who lives in Hollywood, and the danger of potential wildfires to her daughter's home. Only a few hours later, she woke up to a howling wind and the horrifying sight of flames beyond her back fence and debris falling into her swimming pool. She only had time to grab her two cats and two photo albums, and one of her cats jumped out of the car before she could get away. But she was a lucky one. So I believe very deeply that we need to act now to reduce the threat from these wildfires and to give our firefighters a better chance to defend our communities.

We were able to get Congress to approve \$30 million last month in fiscal 2003 funds to help battle the bark beetle, and I am urging the Forest Service to put those funds to work immediately.

That is an important step forward, but we need broader measures to reduce the threat from our forests.

I am delighted that the chairman of the Agriculture Committee is on the floor tonight, Senator THAD COCHRAN, because we have worked with him to produce a compromise bill that I hope will be on the floor of the Senate soon. I hope it will be passed because this bill, which can get 60 votes, is the only chance that this Congress has an opportunity to pass a hazard fuels mitigation program this year.

The fact is, there are 57 million acres of Federal land at the highest risk of catastrophic fire, including 8.5 million acres in California alone. In the past 5 years, wildfires like the ones going on today have raged through 26.9 million acres, including over 2 million acres in California.

In response to these threats, an agreement has been reached by a bipartisan group of 10 Senators to protect our forests from catastrophic fire by expediting the thinning of hazardous fuels and, at the same time, provide the first legal protection for old-growth trees in our Nation's history. Those who have participated, along with myself, in the lengthy negotiations—2 years now—leading up to this agreement include Senators THAD COCHRAN, RON WYDEN, LARRY CRAIG, MIKE CRAPO, PETE DOMENICI, JON KYL, BLANCHE LINCOLN, JOHN MCCAIN, and MAX BAUCUS.

Legislation implementing the agreement as a proposed substitute amendment to title I of H.R. 1904, the House-passed Healthy Forest bill, was filed by Senator COCHRAN, chairman of the Agriculture Committee, on October 2. Yet there have been objections raised to proceeding with this bipartisan substitute amendment.

I urge my colleagues in the strongest possible terms to support this legislation so we can defend our communities and protect our forests.

I wish to take a few moments because if ever there is a time to look at this kind of legislation it is now. I wish to spend a few moments and describe exactly what the legislation would do.

It would establish an expedited process so the Forest Service and the Department of Interior can get to work on brush-clearing projects to minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Up to 20 million acres of lands near communities, municipal watersheds, and other high-risk areas are included in our project. This includes lands that have suffered from serious wind damage or insect infestations, such as the bark beetle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 10 minutes.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I ask unanimous consent for another 8 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. A total of \$760 million is authorized. That is a \$340 million increase over current funding. At least 50 percent of the funds would be

used for fuels reduction near communities. That is what we do not have in this catastrophic wildfire that is taking place right now.

The legislation also requires that large fire-resilient old-growth trees be protected from logging immediately. It mandates that forest plans that are more than 10 years old and most in need of updating be updated with old-growth protection consistent with the national standard within 2 to 3 years. Without this provision in the amendment, we would have to wait a decade or more to see improved old-growth protection. Even then, there would be no guarantee that this protection against the threat of both logging and catastrophic fire would be very strong.

In California, the amendment to the Sierra Nevada framework that is currently in progress will have to comply with the new national standard for old-growth protection. We have also tried to expedite, shorten, and improve the administrative review process to make it more collaborative and less confrontational.

It is critical that the Forest Service spend its scarce dollars by doing work on the ground rather than being mired in endless paperwork. The legislation we submitted preserves multiple opportunities for meaningful public involvement. People can attend a public meeting on every project. They can submit comments during both the preparation of the environmental impact statement and during the administrative review process. I guarantee that the public will have a meaningful say in these projects.

It does change the environmental review process so that the Forest Service still considers the effects of a project in detail but can focus its analysis on the proposal, one reasonable alternative that meets the project goals and the alternative of not doing the project, instead of the five or nine alternatives that are now often required.

This is not the siting of a freeway where one may want five or nine alternative projects. We know where the project is going to take place. The question is, Should it be mechanical? Should it be by burning? What are the problems with the area? Is there a better way of doing it?

So this legislation replaces the current Forest Service administrative appeals with a review process that will occur after the Forest Service finishes its environmental review of a project but before it reaches its decision. This new approach is similar to a process adopted by the Clinton administration in 2000 for a review of forest plans and amendments to those plans. The process will be speedier and less confrontational than the current administrative appeal process.

There is a great deal of misconception both about the appeals process and the judicial review process. I will quickly take a minute and tell my colleagues what we have recommended with respect to judicial review. First,

parties can sue in Federal court only on issues raised in the administrative review process. This is common sense that allows agencies the opportunity to correct their own mistakes before everything gets litigated. Lawsuits must be filed in the same jurisdiction as the proposed project. This also makes common sense. Courts are encouraged to resolve the case as soon as possible, and preliminary injunctions are limited to 60 days. They can be extended, but the individuals making the claim have to go back to court and justify why they need another preliminary injunction.

The court must weigh the environmental benefit of performing a given project against its environmental risk as it reviews the case. This is the balance-of-harms language.

I deeply believe this amendment is much preferable to the House bill which has passed. There are many ways in which we improve on the House-passed bill. First, we focus on the highest priority lands, where we need to undertake brush-clearing projects to restore forest health and prevent forest fire. These include the wildland urban interface as defined by the communities needing protection. It includes lands where fires would threaten municipal water supplies and lands significantly harmed by insects.

Secondly, we have protected both old-growth stands and large trees across the landscape. The projects expedited by this act will restore forest health.

Finally, the Senate agreement removed a provision of the House-passed bill that could have threatened the fair and impartial judicial review of Forest Service actions. This provision would have tilted the playing field in forestry litigation by requiring a court to defer to the Federal Agency's views in deciding whether to issue an injunction. So we have seriously improved the House bill.

In closing, I say to my colleagues that if ever there is a case in point as to why we have to spend more time on the ground with forest actions rather than debating them here, it is the 10 fires that are now taking place in California. They are catastrophic. In fact, they are wreaking human devastation and degradation on a level seldom seen. It is time for this body and this Congress to act.

Both Senator WYDEN and I, and Senator COCHRAN as well, have asked the administration for a statement of administrative policy that they will, in effect, support this legislation in conference. This is critical to our agreement. I have written to the White House. We have called the White House. We have not had a response.

So the action and the ball is really in the White House's court at this time. We need to hear from them. We need to know whether, in fact, this bill, which we believe can garner 60 votes in the Senate, will, in fact, have strong White House and administration support

when it goes to conference, because if it does not, and if the vehicle is not this bill, there will not be a bill. I think that is the truth as many find it.

So to all of those in California who have suffered such grievous loss, I join my colleague in sending our deepest condolences. I have asked all my staff to go to southern California to be available to receive calls from people to try to hook them up with whatever help or aid they need. FEMA will shortly be making announcements as to what numbers to call, where to go to fill out the applications, and we will do everything we can to help facilitate that process.

This is truly one of the great tragedies of human life. Can my colleagues imagine children and parents being burned fleeing from this kind of a fire and over 1,000 families losing everything they have worked a lifetime to build?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed for 1 minute as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I rise to commend my friend, the distinguished Senator from California, for her active involvement and effective work in reaching this agreement that has been reported out of the Senate Agriculture Committee, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. It is the vehicle that we can use to truly bring relief to the citizens of America from disasters like this one that has befallen the citizens of California.

I must say I have been worried, as has she and others in the Senate, that this kind of tragedy could happen. It could happen in many other States. It is time for the Senate to act now. The only thing I disagree with about the remarks of the Senator is she says the ball is in the White House's court.

The ball is in the Senate's court. This bill is pending here in the Senate. We have asked unanimous consent to go to the bill and that amendments be limited to those that are relevant to the bill and that amendments to the amendments be relevant to those amendments to which they are offered. That is the only condition under which the Senate has asked to proceed to consideration of this bill, and objections have been raised on the Democratic side of the aisle to proceeding.

It is time for those who are obstructing the consideration of this bill to reconsider their position, particularly in light of the destruction in California. It is unconscionable that the Senate will not take action on this matter and pass the bill. Let's go to conference with the House. Let's try to prevail in conference. Then it is the turn of the White House to sign or veto the bill. I predict the White House would sign the bill and we will get a good bill in conference that the White House can sign.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. COCHRAN. I am happy to yield to my friend if I have any time.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Senator for those comments. I have just been told we are clear on our side. We can go to the bill. Obviously, there is a request to have amendments and I think we should hear the amendments out and vote on them. I think those of us who participated in this are really dedicated to get this bill passed. We worked for 2 years with your help—

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, let me reclaim the time. I asked unanimous consent on this floor to do just that and there was an objection by the acting leader for the Democratic side, Mr. HARRY REID. If there has been a change in position, that ought to be communicated to the leader. That would be good to know.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. As a point of clarification, Senator, if I may, I am told there is no objection to going to the bill. There was an objection on the limitation of amendments.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, there was no limitation of amendments. The provision in the unanimous consent request was that any amendment offered to the bill would be relevant to the bill and any amendment to an amendment be relevant to the amendment to which it was offered. There was no limitation requested in that unanimous consent request.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. If I may say, through the Chair, for just a moment to the Senator, then I believe we can move to the bill. Because, as I understand it, what you have just stated is exactly the position of this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The Senator from Alabama.

AIDS IN AFRICA

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, as the Senate considers the Foreign Operations bill, we are considering President Bush's proposal to spend \$15 billion to deal with the crisis of AIDS in Africa. It is something I believe is a necessary thing. I supported the President on this. It is a tremendous amount of money, but it is a tremendous problem.

There are many aspects of the problem. Not everybody agrees on every single part of it. I would just say I have done some work on it and I have looked at a number of the issues. I believe strongly that there are some things we can do. If we do them correctly and promptly and effectively, we can dramatically impact the transmission of AIDS in Africa and prevent people from becoming infected and thereby serve a great and noble purpose.

I think this: We know thousands of people are infected in Africa every year. According to conservative numbers generated by the World Health Organization, 250,000 to 450,000 Africans each year contract AIDS, a death sentence ultimately, through healthcare

routes. They contract that not from dangerous activities, but from seeking to improve their own health by going to a hospital, a doctor's office, a clinic, and getting a shot or receiving a transfusion. One thousand a day at a minimum are infected by these procedures. It is totally preventable. It goes beyond just policy, and it is in my view a moral imperative. There is no doubt we can reduce this problem in Africa. We can do it by good policy and strong leadership and I believe we need to speak as a Congress on this issue.

In March of this year I had occasion to read a newspaper article that was in the Washington Times. It quoted a published article in the International Journal of STD and AIDS, a publication of the British Royal Society of Medicine, that presented evidence that the reuse of needles and syringes has played a major role in the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa.

At the time, the article challenged conventional wisdom and the belief in the international public health community that heterosexual sexual contact was the primary route of transmission for HIV in Africa and that medical transmission of the disease did not require the foremost attention of health care specialists.

Dr. David Gisselquist pointed to a number of pieces of evidence supporting his conclusion that medical exposures account for a large proportion of HIV transmissions. He conducted an extensive review of refereed journal articles on the epidemiology—that is the history of the transmission, the people who get it—in the African HIV epidemic. A careful analysis of the data behind these studies enabled him to identify the following trends:

No. 1, multiple studies he reviewed found HIV-infected children whose mothers test negative for the virus. Many of these children are far too young to have contracted the HIV virus through sexual practices or drug use, leaving their infections unexplained by conventional assumptions about the spread of the disease. It was found, however, that these children bearing the HIV virus had, on average, received nearly twice as many injections of vaccines and medicines than their uninfected peers, leading researchers to conclude that there was a strong correlation between the number of injections a child received and that child's chances of contracting HIV.

As we looked at the issue, we found it was not a newly discussed matter but in fact had been out in the field for some time, unfortunately not receiving the kind of attention it should, in my view, have received from the people who were required and authorized to participate in the treatment and prevention of the disease.

Let me just show this article, a blow-up from the San Francisco Chronicle dated Tuesday, October 27, 1998, 5 years ago this date. The title of it is "Fast Track To Global Disaster."

The subheadline under the top is "Deadly Needles." This is what the subheadline said:

For decades, researchers have warned that contaminated syringes could transmit deadly viruses with cruel efficiency, but efforts to defuse the crisis failed, and today, it has become an insidious global epidemic, destroying millions of lives every year.

You ask why, perhaps, did we not deal with that back in 1998 when these matters were being raised. Apparently, there was a debate and a concern that panic would ensue and maybe people wouldn't seek medical care, or that it would deflect attention from WHO's primary view that sexual transmission was the way AIDS was transmitted.

I note this statement by Mike Zaffran of the World Health Organization. You can tell they were wrestling with it, although they did not take action. The subject quote is:

We want to avoid creating a panic. But maybe there is a need to create that panic to solve this problem.

According to WHO, 10 percent of the AIDS transmissions in Africa come from reused needles or contaminated transfusions, both of which are totally preventable, as I will discuss shortly. But I just want to say right now that there is evidence to suggest that the true figure is far larger than 10 percent. Remember, people who contract AIDS and who have no reason to believe they have AIDS are then in a position to unwittingly transmit that disease to their spouses and to others with whom they come in contact. Those who ultimately pass the disease by those contacts may not have done so had they known they had been exposed. I think it has a multiplier effect on the crisis in Africa, clearly affecting and involving the infection of millions of Africans.

I have hosted two hearings in the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on this issue. We have had witnesses from the World Health Organization, from USAID, and from private groups such as Physicians for Human Rights. They have presented evidence. At the conclusion of that testimony, I am even more concerned that the numbers the WHO has acted on or not acted on are low, that more than 10 percent of these HIV cases are being transmitted through unsafe healthcare. Certainly, that is the conclusion Dr. Gisselquist reached after extensive study.

Let me talk about a couple of things: The good news and the bad news.

Injection safety is a critical issue in America. Our health care community has long recognized the risks associated with unsafe injections.

At the outset of the HIV epidemic in America, one of the top priorities in this country was to quickly ensure that patients and health care workers were educated about these risks and that steps were taken to provide ample supplies of single-use syringes—syringes that could not be used again—with safety features to ensure that