

Thank you, Bill Hardisty, for your service to your students and your service to your country.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN
SCOTT GARRETT IN HONOR OF
NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to praise some of the most under-valued public servants in our society: American nurses. They are ever-present at every stage of our lives—at our birth, through childhood illnesses and adult traumas, and in our final days. Yet, while people remember the doctor who delivered their children or cared for their aging parents, they rarely remember the friendly, caring individuals who stayed by their side while busy doctors made rounds.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, registered nurses constitute the largest segment of the health care workforce, with more than 2.4 million jobs in 2006. And, they are projected to create the second largest number of new jobs amongst all occupations. Yet, the demand for nurses is far outstripping the supply and many parts of the Nation—from the most urban inner city to the most remote rural community—are experiencing extraordinary nursing shortages.

Nursing is a noble profession, but one which is too often upstaged by other health care professionals and too often given little credit for the enormous role played in sustaining the high quality of American health care. As we celebrate National Nurses Week this week, let us all take a moment to thank the nurses in our hospitals and doctors' offices, nursing homes and hospices, and all throughout our communities for all their tremendous service.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1873, SMALL BUSINESS
FAIRNESS IN CONTRACTING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1873) to reauthorize the programs and activities of the Small Business Administration relating to procurement, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support for H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act and join my colleagues in efforts to ensure that small businesses are given a fair opportunity to compete for Federal contracts. I recognize that government agencies have recently been bundling hundreds of small contracts into single mega-contracts, which are awarded to only the largest contractors.

H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act, will un-bundle many of these contracts and level the playing field for small businesses. The bill addresses the major

problems that have resulted in limited opportunities for small businesses in the Federal marketplace. The bill ensures that more contracting opportunities are available to small firms, fights fraud in the contracting process and raises the Federal small business government-wide contracting goal. H.R. 1873 implements changes that will remove a number of the barriers facing entrepreneurs in accessing Federal contracts, creating a more level playing field for this Nation's 26 million small businesses.

I want to thank Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ for bringing this legislation to the committee and to the floor. The Detroit region's 420,000 small businesses account for 99.2 percent of all firms; this includes almost 300,000 sole proprietors. Small businesses with employees other than themselves employ 915,000 people or 47 percent of the region's employees. While big businesses have consolidated a large portion of their services and number of employees they hire, small business has helped mitigate the pain with modest but steady employment gains. The continued growth in the small business sector, especially in the formation of fair contracting for the diverse population not only in Detroit, but throughout Michigan, will create much-needed jobs and assist in the diversification of our region's economy.

By law, Federal organizations are required to support small businesses. However, contract bundling has resulted in less small business participation in Federal contracts. It is essential to help remove the barriers blocking small businesses from entering the nearly \$400 billion per year Federal marketplace.

I believe in the value of small businesses as the number one job creators in this country and strongly support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NO OIL
PRODUCING AND EXPORTING
CARTELS ACT OF 2007"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act of 2007" ("NOPEC"), legislation that would effectively force OPEC to begin pricing in a competitive, free market manner or face the possibility of being prosecuted for civil or criminal antitrust violations. This legislation will establish that OPEC's activities are not protected by sovereign immunity and that the Federal courts should not decline to hear such a case based on the "act of state" doctrine. I am joined by Representatives CHABOT and LOFGREN, as original co-sponsors of this bill.

For the past year, American consumers have paid exorbitant prices at the pump, as gas prices have hit their highest levels since the first gulf war. For the past several months, oil prices have remained stubbornly high, sitting above \$65 at the end of last week. Since January of this year, oil prices have climbed more than 20 percent, driving gasoline prices in the United States to record levels while producing budget surpluses in nations like Saudi Arabia. And as of May 8, 2007, the average U.S. price of a gallon of gasoline was \$3.036,

just 2 cents short of the record high reached in September 2005 after Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast.

The group of 12 nations comprising OPEC represent the classic definition of a cartel, and they hold all the cards when it comes to oil and gas prices. OPEC accounts for two-thirds of the world's oil reserves, and over 40 percent of the world's oil production. Most significantly, OPEC's oil exports represent about 70 percent of the oil traded internationally. This affords them considerable control over the global market. Its net oil export revenues should reach nearly \$395 billion this year, and its influence on the oil market is dominant, especially when it decides to reduce or increase its levels of production.

The OPEC nations have for years conspired to drive up prices of imported crude oil, gouging American consumers. Their price-fixing and supply-limiting conspiracy is a clear violation of U.S. antitrust laws, yet we have no recourse for action against these nations. The international oil cartel continues to avoid accountability, shielding itself behind the veil of sovereign immunity by claiming that its actions are "governmental activity"—which is protected under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act ("FSIA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1602 et seq.—rather than "commercial activity."

This legislation, the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act" ("NOPEC"), is simple and effective.

It exempts OPEC and other nations from the provisions of FSIA to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products.

It makes clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws.

It authorizes lawsuits in U.S. Federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

We do not have to stand by and watch OPEC dictate the price of our gas without any recourse; we can do something to combat this conspiracy among oil-rich nations. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL
RESEARCH ACT OF 2007

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 1157, and, in doing so, to honor my mother and all the women in my life. With Mother's Day approaching on Sunday, May 13, I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act as a tribute to each of our mothers. This bill would invest in the research still necessary to determine the potential links between breast cancer and the environment, so that we can cure it and eventually eradicate this terrible disease.

Currently, despite the efforts of numerous researchers, less than 30 percent of breast

cancers are explained by known risk factors. Though studies have explored the effect of isolated environmental factors, including diet, pesticides, and electromagnetic fields, there is little conclusive evidence or consensus in the scientific community on how the environment impacts breast cancer. Scientists have also proposed a number of other potential factors which have yet to be formally studied.

Though many experts accept that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, the extent of that role has not been determined. More research is needed to determine the precise impact of the environment on this disease. This bill authorizes a research program at the National Institutes of Health to do just this.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud to stand as one of well over 150 cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation. Because we don't know what causes breast cancer, or how to prevent it, as our Nation's leaders we have a duty to the American public to support legislation that will aid in the fight to understand and combat this devastating disease. I thank all of my colleagues who have already signed on to this bill, and I urge those who have not to, in honor of Mother's Day, join me in addressing this vital women's health concern.

GUILTY PLEA BY PURDUE FREDERICK COMPANY AND TOP EXECUTIVES TO MISBRANDING OXYCONTIN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, 12 years ago a landmark painkilling medicine hit the doorstep of doctor's offices and local pharmacies with the promise of less addiction and less likelihood for abuse. This prescription drug provided a sustained-release mechanism with up to 12 hours of pain relief for a sore thumb or a back ache. This drug was billed as a "safe" alternative without the painful withdrawal symptoms of other opioids and enjoyed an FDA designation of "moderate-to-severe" pain, making it wildly popular among unsuspecting doctors and pharmacists. OxyContin seemed to be the answer for real pain relief.

Today, we know these were lies. The manufacturer of OxyContin, Purdue Pharma, spent \$500 million marketing this deception and deceit. What began in the boardroom of Purdue Pharma executives has spread like wildfire into the living rooms, bathrooms and classrooms of families seeking pain relief. From 1996 to 2001, the number of oxycodone-related deaths nationwide increased 400 percent while the annual number of OxyContin prescriptions increased nearly 20-fold. Over the same time period, OxyContin brought in \$2.8 billion in revenue for Purdue Pharma, at one point accounting for 90 percent of the company's sales. Purdue heavily promoted OxyContin to unsuspecting doctors, many of whom had little training in the treatment of serious pain or in recognizing signs of drug abuse in patients.

To this profit-making scheme came the unsuspecting victim of eastern Kentucky. The birthplace of bluegrass music and the rich

story of Daniel Boone became ground zero in the war against the illegal diversion of prescription drugs. Appalachia Kentucky is home to a proud people, skilled in the crafts and arts, family-oriented and hardworking. It is also home to an aging population, war veterans and retirees, tough foresters and miners, living with above average unemployment and below average access to healthcare and medical information.

This was a perfect mix for an epidemic. On a per capita basis, our drugstores, hospitals, and other legal outlets receive more prescription pain-killers than anywhere in the nation. And at one time, my region accounted for 25 percent of all OxyContin overdoses in the country. Meanwhile, the death-toll continued to rise, topping out at nearly 500 Oxy-related deaths nationwide. Lives like Sheriff Sam Catron, one of the finest law enforcement officials in Kentucky I've ever known, who was cut short by the bullet of an OxyContin addict.

Today, the President, Chief Legal Officer, and Chief Medical Officer for the Purdue Frederick Company have plead guilty in Federal court to charges of misbranding OxyContin and will pay over \$634 million in damages. This is tremendous news. I have railed against the marketing practices of Purdue in the Appropriations Committee for nearly 7 years and I am pleased to see justice served. I applaud the work of the U.S. Attorneys from the Western District of Virginia and the Virginia Attorney General for their work to bring these criminals to justice.

This landmark case is a wake-up call for the entire pharmaceutical industry, and a warning that deceptive, destructive marketing practices will not be tolerated. The ill-gotten gains and greed of drug profits will hopefully never again be prioritized over the health-care needs of our citizens. Though this sad chapter has finally closed, we must continue to be ever vigilant against the scourge of illegal drugs in our communities. With wise and robust investments in state-run prescription monitoring programs, law enforcement personnel, substance-abuse counselors, and educators, we can win this war; regain strength in our communities, and save lives.

HONORING UPPER BUCKS HEALTHY COMMUNITIES HEALTHY YOUTH COALITION

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the Upper Bucks Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition.

We are all aware of the dangerous rise in teen substance abuse. It is therefore reassuring to see area youth stepping up to help each other avoid the mistakes too many have made.

The members of the Upper Bucks Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition have taken it upon themselves work against teen substance and alcohol abuse.

The success of their marketing campaigns speaks for itself. Madam Speaker, they can claim credit for 15 percent reduction in tobacco use among high school seniors, a 5

percent decrease in alcohol use among high school sophomores and a 44 percent decline in tobacco use among eighth-graders. These numbers demonstrate the effectiveness of the teen-to-teen strategy that they have implemented to protect their peers—our children.

The students in the Coalition began the school year passing out thousands of small buttons with the letters OMG—a common teenage online abbreviation. Next, they distributed hundreds of t-shirts and decals saying "2outta3." Finally, they handed out more than 1,100 t-shirts and 5,000 wrist bands reading "2outta3 don't drink," completing the message that two-out-of-three Upper Bucks teenagers don't drink.

The Coalition members have also enlisted local sports coaches to train them to focus on the incorporation of youth development strategies into coaching.

Local businesses are also joining the fight. The area Burger King franchise and other local stores have raised millions of dollars in support of Project CARE, which trains adults working with young people and awards higher-education scholarships to students formerly with alcohol, drug, or mental health problems.

I am not the first to recognize their great work. The White House National Drug Control Strategy cited the Coalition as an example for groups across the United States to follow.

Madam Speaker, these students have demonstrated great initiative in working to help their peers. On behalf of the entire 8th District of Pennsylvania, I would like to congratulate them for their efforts and their success, and urge others to use these remarkable young people as an example for true community service.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NICHOLAS RIEHL

HON. STEVE KAGEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Nicholas Riehl.

Private First Class Nicholas "Nic" Riehl, from Shiocton, Wisconsin died at age 21 on April 27, 2007, while serving his country in the U.S. Army near Fallujah, Iraq.

Last Saturday, his sister, Roselyn, had this to say to the several thousand in attendance:

When I think of my big brother Nic, many things come to mind. But coward was not one. So when he joined the army there wasn't going to be a way to stop him. His life was a long, long, road, with many turns, some for good, some for bad; but those little bumps in the road made Nic who he was. If he wanted something he would have to work for it, and he did with such pride. It was truly amazing, also he would do it all with a smile, but not just any smile, he has one of those smiles you can see with your eyes closed.

I know I was truly blessed to have him in my life, better yet as a brother. He was there to always lend me his words of wisdom, a helping hand, or to bring my ego back to the ground, and simply prove to me once again that he was the best. There were many things he attempted to teach me like guitar, how to be a "Riehl" leader on the basketball court, and never give up and also, to stay true to yourself.