

July 16, 1999

Marine to accept the vaccine without question?

As a result of the lack of conclusive data on the long-term effects of the anthrax vaccine, many of these military personnel are being forced to make decisions between the safety and security of their families that their dedication and commitment to serving our nation.

In a time when all branches of our military are faced with severe challenges in recruiting and retaining quality military personnel, we should be looking for ways to recruit and retain these men and women.

Instead, over 200 personnel have chosen to resign from the armed services rather than accept the risks associated with a questionable vaccination program.

In one Connecticut Air National Guard Unit alone, eight pilots resigned their commissions because of the mandatory anthrax vaccination. There are growing reports of large numbers of other Guard units whose ranks are shrinking for the same reason.

In my own state of North Carolina, I have heard from numerous active duty and reserve Air Force pilots who have tendered their resignation after many years of service.

However, I am particularly troubled by the recent court-martial of five Marines for their refusal to accept the anthrax vaccination.

As the representative of one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the country, Camp Lejeune, I have learned how much they value their creed: "Corps, God, and then Country."

For the Marines, it is not just a saying; it is a way of life.

Yet, because of the great uncertainty surrounding the anthrax vaccine, a growing number of Marines are also choosing to leave their beloved Corps, their livelihood, to ensure their long-term health and that of their families.

All of these matters have led me to a single conclusion. Until the questions surrounding the anthrax vaccine are answered, I cannot in good conscience support the current mandatory Department of Defense vaccination program.

I feel as though I would be failing in my responsibility if I did not take action to protect the troops who willingly sacrifice their own lives in defense of this nation and its citizens.

As a result, today I am introducing the American Military Health Protection Act.

The legislation is simple.

It would make the current Department of Defense Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program voluntary for all members of the Uniformed Services until either:

1. The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new anthrax vaccination for humans; or

2. The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new, reduced shot course for the anthrax vaccination for humans.

It does not eliminate the program or remove the ability of the Department of Defense to provide anthrax vaccinations. It simply ensures before a member of our military is required to take the vaccine, their questions about its safety and long-term effects are answered.

It is the least that Congress and the Department of Defense can do.

I hope my colleagues here will see that and join me in protecting the great men and women of the United States Military.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNION CITY CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND DESIGNATION AS AN ALL-AMERICAN CITY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on July 31, 1999, Union City, California will celebrate its 40th Anniversary and its recent designation by the National Civic League as an All-American City, one of only ten in the United States for 1999. Although the City of Union City will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 1999, the year 1850 marks the date that settlers John and William Horner visited an oasis by the Bay and laid out a small settlement town eight square blocks which they called "Union City." It is said that the name originates from the Horners' Sacramento River steamer call "The Union."

In the early 1850's, Union City had a total population of just three families. This is in stark contrast to the nearly 64,000 residents who inhabit the City today. Many of Union City's early settlers were disappointed gold miners who found that growing potatoes, fruits, and vegetables could also be quite profitable and rewarding. Most of the vegetables grown in California were shipped from Union City as this area was considered to be the most fertile agricultural land in the state.

By 1852, Union City had developed into a town that had several hotels, numerous boarding houses, livery stables, general stores, a blacksmith shop, and a men's furnishing store among others. The coming years saw major industries start to settle in the area, such as Pacific Coast Sugar Company and Gold Medal Flower.

Much of the area that is now Union City was spared with little damage during the earthquake of 1906. However, Union City faced a new challenge in the 1950's when several adjacent cities targeted Union City for possible annexation. To prevent this from happening, Union City residents decided to successfully incorporate the city in 1959.

Present day Union City is known as the Gateway to the Silicon Valley. With a diverse population of almost every imaginable ethnicity, Union City exemplifies the true American spirit. Civic-minded communities continue to work tirelessly for safe neighborhoods, quality housing and exemplary schools.

I am proud to represent Union City in my 13th Congressional District, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding city on its 40th birthday and designation as All-American City for 1999.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

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consideration the bill (H.R. 2466) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment offered by Congressmen WELDON and BARR.

This amendment would accomplish two goals.

First, it would undermine the Constitutional responsibility that our government has towards Native American Tribes.

Second, it would serve to stop so much of the positive work that is being accomplished in Indian Country.

What my colleagues need to understand is that Tribal Gaming is not a private interest initiative. The proceeds from Tribal Gaming can only be used for governmental programs like education, health care and housing.

Some Tribes that are looking to take lands into trust for the purposes of gaming currently have unemployment rates in excess of 50 percent. Native Americans are simply looking for a way out of what is clearly third world poverty.

This amendment would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from promulgating Class III gaming procedures.

The reason that the Department of Interior has published regulations on Class III gaming is because Congress, by enacting the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, directed the Secretary to develop procedures for Class III gaming compacts.

And lets be clear, Interior's regulations will apply in cases where tribes and states could not reach a Class III agreement but the state already allows Class III gaming activities, and when a state raises immunity as a defense from suit.

Moreover, states could still protect themselves from Class III gaming if they choose by outlawing any kind of Class III gaming in the state. In this regard Tribes could not game under Class III. Examples of States that have no gaming include Utah and Hawaii.

This rule is the result of an extensive public process that began more than three years ago and speaks to the fact that the vast majority of states and tribes have bargained in good faith with each other. In fact, in the ten years since the enactment of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, over 200 compacts have been signed in 24 states.

Tribes deserve a fair opportunity. In many cases they have been denied that chance.

I understand that the National Gambling Impact Study Commission has called for a "pause" in gaming but this amendment does nothing but unfairly discriminate against the only people that use gaming revenues for altruistic purposes.

Moreover, it goes to the very heart of our nation's failure to defend what Tribal Governments are entitled to by virtue of their status as domestic dependent nations.

Why is there no amendment to limit the growth of gaming in Atlantic City? How about state governments that use lotteries everyday?

The reason is because you all feel that Indians are an easy target. Gaming opponents feel as though they need a quick fix to satisfy