



Congressman Bob Lagomarsino's

CRIME AND DRUG NEWSLETTER

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"Whether we examine the cost in terms of human life — including future lives which will be lost and ruined — or in terms of the continuing strain this scourge puts on the entire population, we must recognize the fact that we cannot continue to pay the high price this abuse demands. We must endeavor to eradicate drugs which have made our streets virtual battlegrounds."

— Bob Lagomarsino

H.R. 5210 — Omnibus Drug Initiative Act of 1988

Congress is scheduled to begin its deliberation of the Omnibus Drug Abuse Bill when it reconvenes in September. As a member of the Republican Task Force on Drugs, I have been closely involved in formulating a comprehensive drug package addressing the major aspects of the drug problem. H.R. 4842, the Comprehensive Anti-Drugs Act of 1988 embodies our recommendations. Many of the ideas in the task force bill are included in the final measure to be considered, which is a product of 10 committees. This bill, H.R. 5210, is the compromise which was worked out. Other key proposals will also be offered when this bill is considered by the full House. Major provisions contained in the legislation are:

International Drug Control: The bill calls for a multinational anti-drug strike force, and authorizes military assistance to certain countries for anti-trafficking.

Increased Drug Interdiction: Authorizes an aircraft registration system, establishment of new flight corridors for aircraft entering the U.S., and clarifying the role of the Coast Guard in relation to law enforcement duties.

Drug Law Enforcement: The legislation increases funding for prisons, prosecutors, and judges; provides increased penalty for operation of locomotives or common carriers while under the influence of alcohol or drugs; increases criminal penalties and provides civil fines for possession; establishes demonstration program of mandatory drug testing of criminal defendants; and would establish a national training center for prison drug rehabilitation program personnel.

Education and Rehabilitation: Calls for community-based demonstration projects for drug abuse education and prevention services, establishment of national youth sports program, establishment of drug abuse education and prevention program relating to youth gangs.

Since the problems caused by the widespread use of drugs touch people in all parts of the country and at every level of the social spectrum, including our schools, the work place, sports, and law enforcement to name but a few, it is imperative that we undertake this long overdue task.

Legislation I Have Cosponsored To Help Fight the Drug War

H.R. 2747 — Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention — Establishes a grant to encourage states to set up multiple copy prescription programs. This would require all pharmacists to keep detailed records of all transactions involving controlled substances.

H.R. 1095 — Drug Kingpin Act of 1987 — To amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide death penalty for murders committed in connection with drug deals.

H.R. 3508 — Cocaine and Crack Dealers Graduated Penalties Act — An offense is imprisonable if: the first conviction is for possession of 5 grams, 3 grams for the second conviction and 1 gram for the third conviction. The penalties would be for no less than 5 years and no more than 20.

H.J. Res. 582 — Drug Free America Week — Designating the last week in October as Drug Free America Week. Many groups will be participating in this effort by hosting events around the country to mark this week. These groups will include the National Drug Policy Board, the White House Drug Policy Office, and the Department of Health and Human Service's Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration.

Just Say No to Legalization

I have cosponsored a resolution which expresses the Sense of the Congress that any proposal to legalize illicit drugs as a method to address the problem of illicit drug trafficking and use in the United States should be rejected.

National D.A.R.E. Day — Drug Abuse Resistance Day

This is an educational program which teaches students the skills to say no to drugs. The program consists of 17 lessons, taught on a weekly basis for one semester, on subjects ranging from Drug Use and Misuse, Resistance Techniques, Assertive Response Styles, Managing Stress Without Taking Drugs, Decision Making and Risk Taking, Media Influence on Drug Use, and Resistance to Gang Pressure. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation.

**Just
say no.**

Crime and Drugs — Facts You Should Know

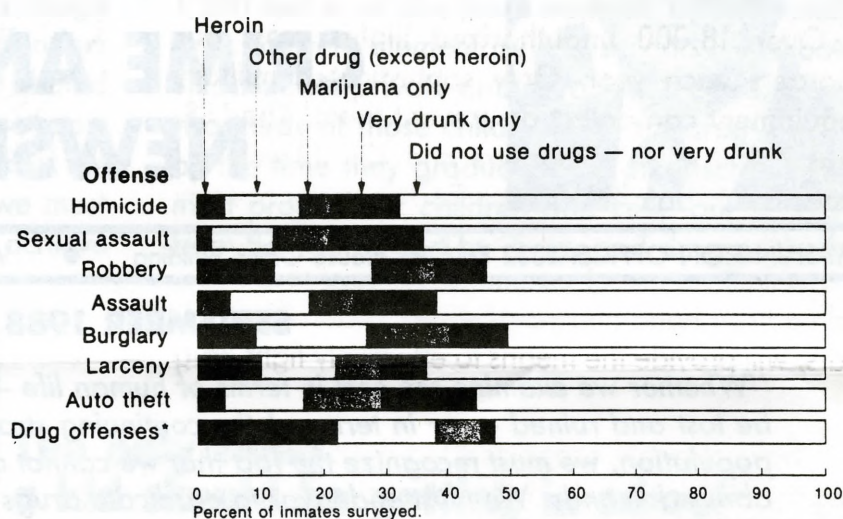
The relationship between drug abuse and crime is indisputable. The facts cannot be ignored.

Fact — According to a Department of Justice Report issued in May 1988, half of the adult males arrested in seven large cities tested positive for drugs.

Fact — On any given day 2,000 Americans will be arrested for drug-related crimes.

Fact — As many as half of the murders committed in some cities have been directly linked to drug crimes and drug use.

2 out of 5 prison inmates reported they were under the influence of drugs or were very drunk around the time of the offense



*Includes trafficking and possession.

Source: BJS Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1979.

Other facts you should know about drugs:

- There are 600,000 heroin addicts.
- It is estimated there are 30 million occasional cocaine users, and up to 1.2 million who are addicted to cocaine.
- Today, 5,000 Americans will try cocaine for the first time.

How drugs affect you in ways you might not be aware of:

- Ten to fifteen percent of all highway fatalities involve drug use.
- Over 30,000 people were admitted to emergency rooms in 1986 with drug-related health problems, including 10,000 for cocaine alone.
- On-the-job accidents are three times as likely to occur with drug users.
- As much as \$100 billion is lost annually in productivity in the workplace due to drug use.
- Most experts agree there is a strong correlation between teenage suicide and use of illegal drugs.
- IV drug use is associated with one-fourth of the 57,000 reported AIDS cases.
- Today, 2,700 boats and planes will smuggle illegal narcotics into the country.

LEGISLATION

I have cosponsored the following bills to reduce crime:

H.R. 4420 — The Anti-Toy Gun Threat Act

This will impose a mandatory five-year prison term on anyone using a toy gun or "imitation firearm" to commit a federal crime. This is the same penalty imposed on criminals using a real firearm. H.R. 4420 would prohibit criminals from escaping additional punishment because they were using a toy gun.

Stop Child Abuse

In an effort to prosecute more child abusers, I have cosponsored H.R. 2926, which authorizes federal funding for states that have laws permitting the use of closed-circuit testimony in child abuse cases.

This legislation also takes the 6th Amendment into account and the defendant's right to face his accuser. Therefore, this bill relates only to live closed-circuit testimony — not video-taped testimony. Evidence indicates that children who testify in open court can suffer psychological harm as a result of this action.

H.R. 4257 — The Pornographic Mail Prohibition Act

Prohibits unsolicited mailing of sexually-oriented advertisements or materials. It would create a \$25,000 civil fine for each day pornography is sent by mail. If prosecuted, these offenders would be subject to the Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organizations forfeiture penalties.

The Military Enlisted in the War on Drugs

I have and will continue to support expanding the role of the military in our national War on Drugs. Illegal drug trafficking is a threat to our national security and should be treated as such.

Over 18,000 unauthorized flights cross our borders each year. Only sophisticated military equipment can detect or prevent them. The U.S. has 7,458 miles of borders and 12,383 miles of coastline to patrol. While civilian agencies already receive some limited military assistance, increased, but selective, use of additional military resources, already on hand and paid for with citizens' tax dollars, will provide the means to effectively fight drug trafficking.

I have strongly supported legislation authorizing the military to help civilian agencies locate, pursue and seize aircraft and vessels unlawfully entering the United States — to defend our borders. The use of modern military communications and surveillance equipment, like AWACS radar, will give law enforcement the edge against drug smugglers. We must fight the war on drugs to win, and using additional military resources to assist civilian law enforcement is part of the battle plan.

Interdiction of supply is only part of our War on Drugs strategy. We must also decrease demand. Recognizing this, the military has taken successful actions in combating drug abuse within its own ranks. Within the last seven years, the reported rate of drug abuse among military personnel has dropped from 27% to only 4.8%. Through tough measures, like random, comprehensive testing, and tough enforcement, including discharges, the military continues with its efforts to bring its drug abuse



figure closer to the zero mark. To prevent demand for narcotics among dependents, the Pentagon is implementing special drug abuse education programs at all Defense Department schools. By using the military's successful anti-demand program as a model for the rest of the country, we can more effectively halt drug trafficking by shrinking demand.

"Semper Paratus" — But Will the Coast Guard Be "Always Ready"?

Throughout its existence, the Coast Guard has lived up to its motto "Semper Paratus" — Always Ready. Today, despite its increasing role in the War on Drugs, inadequate allocation of resources to the Coast Guard threatens its preparedness and ability to fight this war. That doesn't make sense.

I have in the past and will continue in the future



Congressman Lagomarsino aboard the Point Judith, 82 ft. Coast Guard patrol boat stationed in Santa Barbara, with Lt. Todd Turner, Commanding Officer, and members of the crew.

to strongly support the Coast Guard. Unfortunately, the majority in Congress, over the objections of many including me, slashed \$105 million from the 1988 Coast Guard budget, which was already at "minimum" funding. The Coast Guard had to close bases, reduce training, eliminate routine patrols and decommission vessels. The potential dangers in these cuts are real. Last year, the Coast Guard seized 13,000 lbs. of cocaine alone. These drastic budget cuts have forced a 55% reduction in narcotics and fishery patrols making it easier for drug dealers to smuggle their illegal narcotics into our communities.

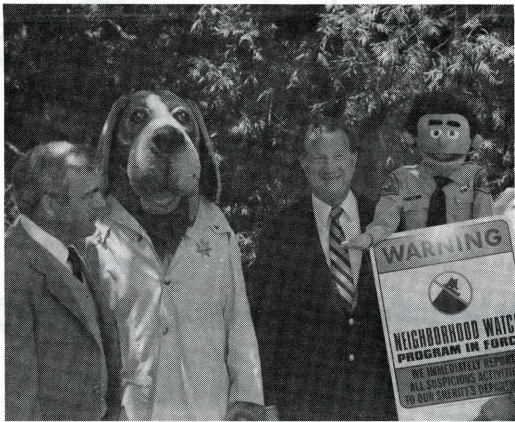
I supported the President's efforts to re-program funds from less critical projects to the Coast Guard. I have also cosponsored and voted for legislation to reverse these dangerous cuts. The Coast Guard is one of the most effective means we have in combating drug smuggling. The Coast Guard is doing its part in protecting our safety and welfare. We should do our part to ensure it remains "Always Ready."

What Is a Drug-Free School?

By designating schools as "drug-free" we are giving notice that anyone selling drugs within a certain perimeter of a school's grounds will be subject to increased punishment. I believe that tough punishment for drug-free school zone offenders should not be limited solely to dealers. It should include juveniles as well as adults who use or possess an illicit drug within a school zone. One of the major reasons for this approach is that we must cut the demand for drugs. The best way to achieve

this goal is to insure that illicit drugs are not available to children on or near the school's grounds.

Under the law, drug-free school zones extend 1,000 feet in all directions from the outer boundaries of every elementary and secondary school. This includes private and parochial schools. Since two-thirds of those children who try drugs do so by the time they graduate from high school, we must protect our children and keep our schools from being invaded by drugs and drug pushers.



Congressman Bob Lagomarsino, with fellow crime fighters — Santa Barbara County Sheriff John Carpenter, "McGruff," and "Ollie," displaying a Neighborhood Watch Program sign.

**The only thing
a kid should be getting in school
is smarter.**

Find out about it. The smarter you are about what works against drugs, the better chance our kids will understand how dumb it is to take them.

**HELP SLAM THE DOOR ON DRUGS
1-800-541-8787**

U.S. Department of Education



Sources of Assistance



Two national toll-free hotlines are:

1-800-622-HELP
National Institute on Drug Abuse
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

1-800-COCAINE
Fair Oaks Hospital
Summit, NJ 07901

Drug information is available from:

301-294-0600
American Council for Drug Education
204 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

404-934-6364
Families in Action
National Drug Information Center
Suite 300
3845 North Druid Hills Road
Decatur, GA 30033

415-939-6666
1-800-258-2766
Just Say No Foundation
1777 North California Boulevard
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

301-468-2600
National Clearinghouse for Alcohol & Drug Information
P.O. Box 2345
Rockville, MD 20852

301-585-KIDS
National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth
Suite 200
8730 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

1-800-241-7946
Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE)
Suite 1002
100 Edgewood Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30303

HOW TO CONTACT CONGRESSMAN LAGOMARSINO

VENTURA
Suite 101
5740 Ralston
Ventura, CA 93003
642-2200/656-4344
(toll-free from Oxnard and Santa Paula)

SANTA MARIA
Suite E
104 E. Boone Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
922-2131

SANTA BARBARA
Studio 121 El Paseo
814 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
963-1708

LOMPOC
The Lompoc office is open 1-5 p.m. the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.
Lompoc City Hall
100 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436
736-1261