

IPSR NEWS

Iowa Chapter, Physicians for Social Responsibility

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Notice!

Mark your calendar for international events planned for Saturday, March 20, 2004, the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

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A nation, like a person, has a mind--a mind that must be kept informed and alert, that must know itself, that understands the hopes and the needs of its neighbors--all the other nations that live within the narrowing circle of the world.

— FDR, 1941 Inaugural address

SMART Security Resolution for Iowa Caucus

Suggested New Years resolution: *I will do all that I can to increase support for a Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. It's a resolution we can all live with!*

As we face the start of a new year, a most auspicious time, members and friends of Iowa PSR look forward to both ongoing and new challenges, as well as new opportunities in our efforts to help bring about a peaceful and healthful world. Right now, most importantly, we have an opportunity to positively impact the coming election.

To make it easy for you to participate, we have included the resolution on SMART Security (*page 5*), and on the assault weapons ban (*page 6*) to use at your local precinct. Additional copies can be downloaded and printed from the Iowa PSR web site. Be sure to read the resolutions and vote on them at your

(*Smart Resolution continued on page 2*)

IPSR Sponsors Issue Caucuses

From October 25 to November 21, 2003, Iowa PSR conducted the first ever, all Iowa Issues Caucus. A ballot of 10 issues was developed as an educational tool with which to consult directly with Iowa voters on selected issues. The issues were: 1) Military spending; 2) Nuclear Posture Review (Bush Doctrine); 3) Supporting troops and veterans; 4) Education; 5) Health

Care Access; 6) Energy; 7) Jobs and Financial Security; 8) Environment; 9) Gun Violence; and 10) Humanitarian Assistance. These ten issues were selected to reflect the principles of PSR's SMART Security Platform and presented in the ballot as multiple choice questions. Each question was prefaced by a short paragraph of background information.

(*Issue Caucuses continued on page 2*)

Energy Bill Does Not Protect Public Health

Last month the Senate defeated passage of the newest version of the energy bill because it does not protect public health. Senator Domenici (R-NM), will push a revised version of the bill when Congress resumes session in January. PSR Environment and Health Activists,

and the PSR Board of Directors, fiercely defended the environment and public health when they called, faxed, and e-mailed their US Senators prior to the floor vote on energy policy. The Senate energy bill is not dead yet and it

(*Energy Bill continued on page 3*)

(Smart Resolution continued from page 1)

caucus, and please leave a copy with your caucus chairperson. Let us know if the Resolution passes in our local caucus. Iowa PSR hopes you will go and enjoy the process, beginning at 6:30 PM on Monday, January 19, 2004. If you can't find where your caucus is to be held, call the County Auditor at your county courthouse or check with your local party office.

The Iowa Caucus process is an excellent example of grassroots democracy at work—if people attend and participate. As everyone knows by now, Iowa enjoys the unique opportunity of being the first state in the nation to take a stand on the candidates and the policies that

will be promoted during and after the presidential election. Attending the caucuses gives Iowans the chance to discuss and support issues that form the national party platforms

Even though a candidate may not agree with every statement on his/her party's platform, the platform represents what members of the party generally believe and what the party stands for at the county, state and national levels. Our participation can make a difference between the continued pursuit of reckless and violent policies based on militarism, unilateralism, and environmental devastation, or the dawning of a new healthier, more peaceful world community. Ω

New "Usable" Nukes???

History lessons we never seem to learn.

The picture at the right is of the May 25, 1953 U.S. nuclear test in Nevada, code named XX-12 Grable. In this test, a 15 kiloton nuclear shell was fired by a 280 mm artillery gun. To date, this was the only time a nuclear artillery shell has ever been fired.

In late 2003, at the request of the current Administration, the U.S. Congress allocated funds to begin research into development of new "usable" nuclear weapons similar to XX-12 Grable.

Is this SMART? Ω



Learn More About SMART

PSR developed and has promoted the SMART Security platform as a public education program for the last year. To learn more, go to the national PSR web site, www.psr.org. At the PSR home page click on "Security." On the security page click on "Learn more about PSR's SMART Security Campaign."

Iowa PSR's web site, www.iowa-psr.org, also has information on SMART Security, a sample SMART Resolution to take to the January 19, 2004 Iowa Caucuses, and other relevant links. Ω

(Issue Caucuses continued from page 1)

formation underlying SMART. The original ballot can be viewed on the Iowa PSR web site, www.iowa-psr.org.

In addition to voter education, Iowa PSR designed the Issue Caucus project to also 1) assess the awareness of Iowa voters about these issues and level of interest in an alternative national security strategy such as that espoused by SMART; 2) encourage Iowa voters to bring the SMART Security resolution to the official Iowa Caucuses January 19, 2004; and 3) enable potential voters to become registered, participate in the official Iowa Caucuses, and vote in the 2004 elections.

Caucuses were held at 24 sites across Iowa. Sites included colleges, libraries, a shopping mall, meetings, conferences, businesses, homes, and personal networks. The Issue Caucus was promoted through local newspaper ads, Iowa Public Radio, direct e-mail, internet list serves, and direct contact with activists and activist

groups in Iowa. At Caucus sites, informational posters and fact sheets were available on each of the 10 issue ballot questions. Voter registration forms were also provided. In addition, a virtual Caucus Site has been continuously available at www.iowa-psr.org. The Virtual Caucus site has the ballot, fact sheets, a voter registration form, information on how to find your local official Iowa Caucus January 19, 2004, sample resolutions for the official Iowa Caucuses in January 2004, and links to online report cards comparing the 2004 presidential candidates on a broad range of issues.

Approximately 1000 Iowans were directly engaged and 430 ballots were completed. There were over 4,000 hits on the IPSR web site during the Caucus period. The final report on the Issue Caucus can be viewed at or downloaded from the Iowa PSR web site, www.iowa-psr.org. See page 4 for a summary report of the Issue Caucus results. Ω

(Energy Bill continued from page 1)

is up to you to continue applying pressure on your Senators to pass a comprehensive energy policy that focuses on renewable energy and efficiency standards, clean emissions, and public health.

PSR wants to help you to educate your community about the threats to public health posed by this energy policy. PSR encourages members and supporters to write letters to the senators and/or local papers like

those written by Iowa PSR member, Dr. Vibhakar and Dr. Holtz of Albuquerque and reprinted below.

If you would like more information about submitting letters to the editor to your local newspaper, or if you would like to see more information about the Energy Bill, please contact Jenny Levy, PSR Outreach Associate, at 202-667-4260, extension 239 or by e-mail at jlevy@psr.org. Ω

Mercury Emissions

On December 3rd, the Bush Administration scuttled a previously mandated EPA plan that would have required power plants to reduce mercury emissions through "maximum achievable technology" by 2007. As a Pediatrician and a father I find this gross disregard for our public health, especially that of our children, repulsive.

Mercury is a toxin that persists in the environment and affects our nervous system. Children and pregnant women are especially vulnerable. The Center for Disease Con-

trol has estimated that one in 12 women of childbearing age currently have mercury levels that would be toxic to a fetus. Forty three states have had to issue fish consumption advisories due to toxic levels of mercury in their waters.

How these administration "compassionate conservatives" can willingly accept the poisoning of our children is beyond me. Of course money has a lot to do with it. Several arguments have been put forward by the administration. One is that the technology is not ready, however by EPA conclusions such technology currently exists and a

host of small businesses are ready to provide it. Imagine the boost to the economy. Further arguments that the economic burden on Energy companies would be too much is also false. The net cost would be about 1% according to industry estimates. Furthermore, think of the negative economic impact on the fishing industry.

Overall the Bush policy regarding mercury emissions is illogical and downright callous. Ω

*Rajeev Vibhakar, MD
Iowa City, IA*

Clean Energy

Senator Domenici's defense of the energy bill fails to adequately address the lack of political will for demanding cleaner, renewable energy. Renewable energy standards, which guarantee an increase in wind, solar, and biomass energy sources, similar to New Mexico's Renewable Portfolio Standard of ten percent by 2011, were stripped from the final bill debated last month. The outdated process of burning fossil fuels, especially coal and even "clean coal" for electric-

ity, is the greatest single source of air pollution in the country. This pollution not only leads to severe health problems, but is a leading cause of global warming—an issue this energy bill ignores.

Senator Domenici dismisses mandatory increases in standards for fuel economy as "good rhetoric." In fact, American vehicle fuel economy is at its lowest point since the 1980s. These increases are readily achievable with existing technology and would decrease our dependence on foreign oil as well as reducing pollution. If the Senate

truly wants to induce us to conserve, why not close the loophole that allows huge tax deductions for gas guzzling luxury SUVs?

Cleaner energy is vital to combat air pollution and global warming which both pose public health hazards. This bill is full of giveaways to rich fossil fuel corporations. Our children deserve better. Their health depends on it. Ω

*Anita Holtz, MD
Albuquerque, NM*

Iowa Issue Caucus Results

The 430 ballots received during the Issue Caucus were encoded into a computer database for analysis. A summary report is given here. A more detailed analysis, as well as the original ballot, can be downloaded from the Iowa PSR website, www.iowa-psr.org or can be received by mail upon request (*See page 7 for contact information*).

Limited demographic data was collected on the ballots: gender, age, voter registration status, intention to vote in the 2004 elections, and intention to participate in the January 19, 2004 Iowa Caucuses. Of respondents, 49% were female; 42% male, and 9% unspecified. Of the 430 respondents, 234 indicated they intended to attend the January Iowa Caucus and of these 51% were female, 45% male and 4% unspecified. The gender breakdown of all respondents was identical to those who were caucusers. Age breakdown revealed that 37% were 30 years-old or younger, 23% 31-49 years-old, 22% 50-69 years old, 7% were 70 years-old or older, and 11% did not specify an age.

On the ballot, respondents were asked to select one of three statements (a, b, or c) for each of the ten issues that best represented their view. In the table shown below, the most frequently selected response to each of the ten questions is given along with the percent who selected the statement. Final tallies, expressed as percent of all respondents, males, females, and caucusers, respectively, are given in the last four columns.

Respondents then prioritized the ten issues as follows: 1) Health Care Access; 2) Military Spending; 3) Energy; 4) Environment; 5) Jobs and Financial Security; 6) Nuclear Posture Review (Bush Doctrine); 7) Humanitarian Assistance; 8) Education; 9) Gun Violence; and 10) Support for troops and veterans.

Write-in issues were also solicited on the ballot. Write-in issues often overlapped with the ten ballot issues, underscoring interrelatedness of many of these issues. The leading ten categories of write-in issues, ranked in descending order, were: 1) Education; 2) Diversity Rights; 3) Election Reform; 4) Corporate Restraint; 5) Reproductive Rights; 6) Criminal Justice Reform; 7) National Government Reform; 8) Regional Conflict; 9) Civil Liberties Protection; and 10) Health.

A few impressions are suggested by the analysis:

- There was a strong consensus response to each issue.
- The subset of males who were not caucusers account for most of the gender differences.
- The ballot consensus is clearly in accord with the SMART Security platform.
- The issue with highest priority was Health Care. Ω

Answer Number	Answer	All (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Caucuser (%)
8c	Human survival ultimately depends on the health and vitality of our shared environment, and its protection must be given a high priority when determining industrial processes, corporate projects, and international trade agreements.	87.4	83.8	93.3	90.2
3a	We should support our troops by providing increased health care and special active-troop benefits.	84.4	79.3	88.1	88.9
6a	We need to reduce our dependence on oil (it involves us in wars, increases air, water, and soil pollution, while doing nothing to halt global warming), and to invest much more in pollution-free renewable energy options.	83.0	81.0	85.2	84.6
10a	If there were less poverty and inequity in the world, there would be less violence, and we would all be more secure. Prioritizing global poverty elimination over military aid would make us all safer.	77.4	74.3	83.3	83.8
2a	Unilateralism, creation of new nuclear weapons, and threats of first strike are destabilizing and dangerous; following this policy will make the U.S. less, not more, safe.	75.6	73.2	80.0	83.3
1b	The U.S. relies too much on expensive weapons and military force to promote its policies in the world. We need to find peaceful means to achieve peace.	72.3	61.5	81.4	76.1
7a	All working people should be guaranteed a living wage, or, if below \$20,000, owe no income tax.	71.9	70.9	73.8	80.8
4c	Recruiting in schools is inappropriate. Education should not be linked by law to the military, and a school's federal funding should not depend on its providing private student contact information to recruiters.	68.8	62.0	77.1	76.5
5a	I support an expanded and strengthened universal "Medicare-for-all" system administered by a transparent and publicly accountable government agency.	67.0	65.4	69.5	74.8
9a	Assault weapons have no safe role in civil society and should be banned. The gun industry should be held liable for harmful products as with other consumer products.	64.2	55.9	72.9	69.7

SPECIAL THANKS TO CAUCUS VOLUNTEERS

1. Nader Ajluni, Physician, Des Moines, PSR and Peace Time	10. Maria Hope, Iowa City, Amnesty International	17. Martha Perez, Spanish Professor, Iowa City
2. Ellen Ballas Iowa City, PSR	11. Garry Klein, Iowa City	18. Wayne Osborn, Iowa City, United Nations Association, PSR
3. Peg Bouska, PA, Iowa City, PSR	12. Veronika Kolder, Physician, Iowa City, PSR	19. Maggie Rawland, Des Moines, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
4. Angela Christiansen, Iowa City, Iowans for Peace	13. Kirsten Meredith, Cedar Rapids, PSR, Iowans for the Prevention of Gun Violence	20. Ann Stromquist, Iowa City, American Friends Service Committee
5. Tim Eldridge, Medical Student, Iowa City, S-PSR	14. Tuyet Nguyen, UI Student Government, Iowa City	21. Renee Weinberg, Sioux City, PSR
6. Ewing, Matt, Des Moines, Apollo Alliance	15. Greg Parker, Medical Student, Iowa City, S-PSR	22. Jeffrey Weiss, Des Moines, American Friends Service Committee Ω
7. Mary Beth Gardam, Des Moines, STAR PAC	16. Paul, Dorothy, Iowa City, United Nations Association, Rotary, PSR	
8. John Grinstead, Cedar Falls		
9. Margie Haworth, West Branch People for Peace		

Letter from Physicians for Responsibility to Iowans

Iowans will soon brave the cold of a winter night to stand up for the presidential candidate of their choice. The caucuses also provide the opportunity for all of us to "vote" for a new direction in U.S. national security policy.

The Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa (EMI) - Iowa's state council of churches, with 2300 congregations and over 600,000 members -- has joined with Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility and numerous other Iowa grassroots organizations to promote a "SMART Security" caucus resolution. SMART stands for a Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. Our belief is that while there's no doubt the U.S. is powerful, we have not been wise in the ways we seek security.

Under the guise of a "war on terrorism," our nation has embarked on a number of radically new and controversial security policies -- including abandoning arms control treaties, launching unilateral preemptive attacks, and developing new nuclear weapons. In addition, we have poured hundreds of billions of dollars into weaponry, and to pay for the Iraq war and its aftermath. But what we seem to have reaped is increased hostility to the U.S. from most of the peoples of the world.

In search of security, the U.S. is now spending almost as much on its military as the rest of the world combined. The money, we're told, is to "protect" our citizens -- yet more and more Americans are becoming casualties of the ravages of homelessness, hunger, unemployment or underemployment, and the inability to access needed health care. Many of our schools are terribly short of funds, and our inner city streets often are battlegrounds of drug- and gang-related violence. We are told there is no money to meet these urgent domestic security needs -- but we are spending billions of dollars on an untested Star Wars missile defense system, and to maintain a huge array of nuclear weapons (truly "weapons of mass destruction" for which there is no moral defense.)

There are plans to build new, more "usable" nuclear weap-

ons. As an opponent of this policy, Republican US. Rep. David Hobson (Ohio), has noted: "We have more nuclear weapons now than we know what to do with. I'm concerned about our image in the world when we're telling others not to build these things, and then we push these new weapons."

We in PSR believe there is a smarter way to enhance U.S. security than by waging preemptive wars that only spur more terrorism, and developing new nuclear weapons that only increase nuclear proliferation. We believe that we are called to treat the world's lack of security by feeding the hungry, finding shelter for the homeless, strengthening our public health system, and creating jobs for the unemployed. We believe a poverty of spirit pervades our current policies, and that we desperately need a new direction.

We are urging all Iowans - Republicans and Democrats -- to offer and support a "SMART Security Resolution" at their caucus. The resolution calls for the U.S. to take leadership to:

- Strengthen international institutions and cooperative diplomacy to prevent acts of terrorism;
- Reduce the threat of weapons of mass destruction by renouncing the development of new nuclear weapons and strengthening international disarmament treaties;
- Eliminate wasteful military spending; Invest in international peacekeeping and development, and in meeting urgent domestic needs such as jobs, health care, and education.

For more information about the resolution, project, please go to the EMI web site: www.iowachurches.org.

No matter which party or which candidate you support for the White House, let all the candidates hear that you want a smarter approach to security. Ω

Take SMART Security Resolution to your caucus.



SMART SECURITY RESOLUTION for Iowa Caucuses (Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism)

We propose that the following SMART Security resolution is made part of the Iowa _____ Party Platform:

WHEREAS, current U.S. Policy of unilaterally abandoning arms control treaties, launching unilateral preemptive attacks, and threatening other nations with nuclear strikes is dangerous and spurs other nations to obtain weapons of mass destruction, and

WHEREAS, the United States spends more on its military than the rest of the world combined but in fact buys less security,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Party of Iowa endorses a SMART Security Platform that would have the U.S. take leadership:

- Strengthen international institutions and cooperative diplomacy to prevent acts of terrorism;
- Reduce the threat of weapons of mass destruction by renouncing the development of new nuclear weapons and strengthening international disarmament treaties;
- Eliminate wasteful military spending;
- Invest in international peacekeeping and development and in meeting urgent domestic needs such as jobs, health care, and education.

PSR Student Affiliate

Four members of the Iowa Student-PSR attended the National Conference on Media Reform with financial help from the University of Iowa Student government. They joined 1,700 others in Madison Wisconsin on Nov. 7-9 where a broad range of media reform activists, members of Congress, FCC representatives, and leaders from major groups working for civil rights, women's rights, rural renewal, the environment, labor, community development and other issues convened to:

- Mobilize new constituencies
- Strengthen coalitions working in Washington and at the grassroots
- Develop plans for immediate and long-term reforms
- Generate policies and strategies that will structurally improve the media system

Tim Eldridge, Student-PSR Leader reported, "The Media Reform Conference was amazing." The Conference focused on reforming media structure and ownership in America and how to work with the media. The speaker list included: Robert McChesney; John Nichols; Ralph Nader; Bill Moyers; Studs Terkel; FCC Commissioners, Jon Adelstein and Michael Copps, President of the AFL_CIO, John Sweeney, Al Franken, Senators Bernie Sanders and Russ Feingold; plus many other congress people; Jesse Jackson; Amy Goodman; founder of FAIR, Jeff Cohen; and lots, lots more. Tim stated "It was the best conference I've ever been to."

If you're interested, you can review the conference proceedings at <http://www.mediareform.net>. Ω

Gun Violence Action Alerts



Iowans for
Prevention of
Gun
Violence
www.ipgv.org

TAKE ACTION ON ASSAULT WEAPONS! It's as easy as . . .

1. Pick up the phone
2. Dial 1-202-224-3254
3. Say: "Hello. I'm a constituent and would like to request that Senator Harkin become a co-sponsor of S. 1431, the *Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act*, which would renew and strengthen the federal assault weapons ban."



Take the assault weapons ban resolution to your caucus. Below is the text of a resolution that calls for the renewal and strengthening of the federal assault weapons ban. Just take it to your caucus, read it, and ask for a vote.

WHEREAS, military style, semiautomatic assault weapons represent an unreasonable risk to the nation's law enforcement personnel and the general public; and

WHEREAS, the current federal assault weapons ban is scheduled to expire on September 13, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the failures of the current assault weapons ban are well known, allowing gun manufacturers to make minor modifications to their assault weapons, rename them, and market them as post-ban products;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, _____, support renewal of an improved assault weapons ban that effectively bans assault weapons from the civilian market.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS — SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2004**

The One Year Anniversary of the Start of the Iraq War

Around the world, all peace loving people will demand an end to the Iraq war, an end to the illegal occupation. Major demonstrations are planned around the world and in major U.S. cities by United for Peace and Justice and other progressive groups including the American Friends Service Committee. We encourage our members to join in the large national demonstrations, but if you are not able travel, plan now to join in local activities near you in Iowa that will move to and culminate in a major Des Moines event.

Details about coordinated statewide activities are being worked out by a coalition of Iowa peace groups. Information will be provided as plans evolve. If you want to help or have ideas, please contact Iowa PSR, mickiq@earthlink.net. More information can be had at United for Peace and Justice web site, www.unitedforpeace.org. Ω

Contact Us

Got ideas? Questions? Contact us, please. Constructive criticism welcome.

Our mailing address: Iowa PSR
20 E Market St, Room 200
Iowa City, IA 52240

E-mail can be sent to: mac81185@aol.com.

Faxes can be sent to: 319-828-9911

Check our web site: www.iowa-psr.org.
(View and download this and old newsletters in PDF format.)

If you wish to contribute, join PSR, or renew membership, please detach and complete both sides as appropriate.

Donate to IPSR Projects. IPSR can now accept donations earmarked for specific projects.

IOWA ISSUE CAUCUSES \$ _____

SMART Campaign. This is a national PSR project but Iowa is a prime target state for the project. IPSR is very active in promoting and devoting resources to SMART. \$ _____

Immigrant and Refugee Educational Video Project
(IPSR News Volume 2, Number 2) \$ _____

Student PSR Affiliate at the University of Iowa
(See article, page 6) \$ _____

Office, web site, and Newsletter Support \$ _____

Donation TOTAL (carry to other side) \$ _____

Remember, IPSR is a tax exempt 501(C)3 organization.

IPSR
20 East Market St, Room 200
Iowa City, IA 52245

Take SMART Security and Ban Assault Weapons Resolutions to
your Caucus January 19, 2004
More details inside.

VOTE SMART

Please detach and pass on to physicians, other health care professionals, or citizens who may be interested in PSR.

Join! Renew! Forward to a Colleague!

Keep me updated on IPSR activities by e-mail

Send me the newsletter via:

e-mail
 US post

PSR Membership:

- \$ 125 - Health professional with doctoral degree
 \$ 50 - Other health care professionals and general public
 \$ 35 - Retired
 \$ 15 - Student (first year student membership is free)

\$ _____ Total contributions from other side

\$ _____ TOTAL enclosed

New Member

Renewal

Reinstatement

NAME: _____ Degree(s) _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE(s): _____

E-MAIL: _____

Make checks payable to IPSR and mail to:
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20 E Market, Room 200
Iowa City, IA 52245

Membership confirmation will be sent to you by national PSR.

DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCIBLE