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Lt. Governor Jennings Inducts Three Great Floridians Into State Women's Hall Of Fame

For Immediate Release
 Tuesday, December 2, 2003

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TALLAHASSEE--"I appreciate Dr. Wolfson's time and effort in this endeavor. I also respect the tremendous challenge of preparing an accurate, independent and thorough review of nearly 10 years of information in only 30 days. That Dr. Wolfson recognizes the continued need for an independent third party Guardian Ad Litem is encouraging, as is his recommendation that Mrs. Schiavo undergo swallowing tests and therapy. Based on this third party analysis, I am hopeful that Mr. Schiavo and his attorney will no longer prevent this vital testing from taking place. This would be a first step in the fresh, clean-hands start that Dr. Wolfson recommended at the end of his report.

"Taken as a whole, however, I am concerned that too many open questions still remain. Chief among them is the issue of Mrs. Schiavo's wishes, and whether or not there is clear and convincing evidence as to what those wishes were. The current court proceedings have not addressed this issue, or her current guardian's conflicts of interest, nor have I been given the opportunity to develop evidence, or test the accuracy of Mr. Schiavo's assertions on this matter.

"I am also concerned we do not know the expertise of the individuals who provided the 'answers' to the questions that are addressed in the report. I am sure that Dr. Wolfson, who indicated his reliance on 'good science-based medicine,' understands the importance of knowing which good scientists and good doctors he relied on to reach certain conclusions.

"As I have said from the beginning, the state must protect every Floridians' right to life, and in so doing, err on the side of life. As Governor, I will continue to do just that. Nothing in Dr. Wolfson's report leads me to believe the stay should be lifted at this time, or that Mrs. Schiavo should be deprived of her right to live."

[Wolfson](#)
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