

involved—both the lives of those with diseases that might find cures from this research and the lives of the embryos that will be destroyed in the process. The children here today are reminders that every human life is a precious gift of matchless value.

I appreciate Mike Leavitt, Department of Health and Human Services, for being here. He's the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. I picked a really good man to take on this assignment. He's doing a fine job.

I want to thank the executive director of Nightlight Christian Adoptions, Ron Stoddart, for joining us today. Welcome. I want to thank Lori Maze, the director of Snowflakes Frozen Embryo Adoption Program. Welcome, Lori. Thank you for coming. And thank you all for being here.

The rapid advance of science presents us with the hope of eventual cures for terrible diseases and with profound moral and ethical dilemmas. The decisions we make today will have far-reaching consequences, so we must aggressively move forward with medical research while also maintaining the highest ethical standards.

Research on stem cells derived from human embryos may offer great promise, but the way those cells are derived today destroys the embryo. I share the hope of millions of Americans who desperately want to find treatments and cures for terrible diseases such as juvenile diabetes and Parkinson's disease. That is why my administration completing—completed the doubling of the NIH budget to \$29 billion a year, to encourage research. I also made available for the first time Federal funds for embryonic stem cell research in order to explore the potential of these cells.

But I also recognize the grave moral issues at stake. So in August 2000—first—2001, I set forward a policy to advance stem cell research in a responsible way by funding research on stem cell lines derived only from embryos that had already been destroyed. This policy set a clear standard:

We should not use public money to support the further destruction of human life.

Under this policy, we have supported a great deal of ethical research. About 600 shipments of eligible stem cell lines are already being used by researchers across the country, and over 3,000 more shipments are still available. We've increased funding for all forms of stem cell research by more than 80 percent since I took office. A tremendous amount of both public and private research is underway in America on embryonic as well as adult stem cells and stem cells from umbilical cord blood.

Today the House of Representatives is considering a bill that violates the clear standard I set 4 years ago. This bill would take us across a critical ethical line by creating new incentives for the ongoing destruction of emerging human life. Crossing this line would be a great mistake.

Even now, researchers are exploring alternative sources of stem cells, such as adult bone marrow and umbilical cord blood as well as different ethical ways of getting the same kind of cells now taken from embryos, without violating human life or dignity. With the right policies and the right techniques, we can pursue scientific progress while still fulfilling our moral duties.

I want to thank Nightlight Christian Adoptions for their good work. Nightlight's embryo adoption program has now matched over 200 biological parents with about 140 adoptive families, resulting in the birth of 81 children so far, with more on the way.

The children here today remind us that there is no such thing as a spare embryo. Every embryo is unique and genetically complete, like every other human being. And each of us started out our life this way. These lives are not raw material to be exploited, but gifts. And I commend each of the families here today for accepting the gift of these children and offering them the gift of your love.

Thank you for coming today. By the way, we're having a little birthday gathering just

in a second for Tanner and Noelle. You all are invited to partake in a little birthday cake. [Laughter] In the meantime, may God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless our country. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:07 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to birthday guests Tanner Brinkman and Noelle Faulk.

Remarks With Judge Priscilla R. Owen on Senate Action To Allow Votes on Judicial Nominations May 24, 2005

The President. I'm proud to welcome Judge Priscilla Owen to the Oval Office, along with Leader Frist and my two buddies from the great State of Texas, Senator Hutchison and Senator Cornyn.

Over 4 years ago, I put Judge Owen's name up to the Senate for confirmation to the Fifth Court of Appeals. Thanks to the good work of the leader, whose work cleared the way, Judge Owen is finally going to get an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor. She is my friend, and more importantly, she's a great judge.

I want to thank the Texas Senators who have been so strong standing beside Priscilla. There was never any doubt in the

Senators' minds that Priscilla Owen is well-qualified to honorably serve on the Federal bench. And it's such a—it's a great day for our friend, to see our friend finally get a just due, after a long, long wait.

So, welcome and congratulations. Perhaps you'd like to say something.

[At this point, Judge Owen made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:51 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Judge Owen.

Remarks Following a Tour of a Hydrogen Fueling Station and an Exchange With Reporters May 25, 2005

The President. This is the beginning of some fantastic technology, and thanks for having us out here. We're going to look at some other vehicles here in a minute, but hydrogen is the wave of the future. And this country is going to have to use technology to diversify away from hydrocarbons. We're too dependent on foreign sources of energy today. And one way to diversify away from hydrocarbons is to use hydrogen, the byproduct of which will be

water and not exhausts which pollute the air.

So I'm excited to be part of a technological revolution that's going to change the country. It won't happen overnight. It's going to take a fair amount of research and development to make sure hydrogen is attractive and reasonable—is able to be manufactured at a reasonable price, distributed in a wide way for consumer satisfaction.