

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4576

To award a congressional gold medal to Francis Collins, in recognition of his outstanding contributions and leadership in the fields of medicine and genetics.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 13, 2007

Mrs. BIGGERT (for herself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. EHLERS, Mrs. EMERSON, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. WOLF) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a congressional gold medal to Francis Collins, in recognition of his outstanding contributions and leadership in the fields of medicine and genetics.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) Francis Collins, who was raised on a small
6 farm in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, decided to

1 pursue a career in chemistry when he was a high
2 school student;

3 (2) in the 1970s, after studying DNA and
4 RNA, Francis Collins recognized that a revolution
5 was on the horizon and decided to study medicine
6 and genetics;

7 (3) Francis Collins received a Ph.D. in Physical
8 Chemistry from Yale University in 1974, and an
9 M.D. from the University of North Carolina in
10 1977;

11 (4) after a fellowship in genetics at Yale Uni-
12 versity, Francis Collins joined the faculty at the
13 University of Michigan and discovered a new method
14 to identify abnormal genes;

15 (5) Francis Collins' work led to major advances
16 in modern medicine, including the identification of
17 genes responsible for cystic fibrosis,
18 neurofibromatosis, Huntington's disease, and
19 Hutchison-Gilford progeria syndrome;

20 (6) in 1993, Francis Collins succeeded James
21 Watson as Director of the National Center for
22 Human Genome Research at the National Institutes
23 of Health;

24 (7) as Director of the National Center for
25 Human Genome Research, Francis Collins was

1 charged with leading a 15-year effort to locate and
2 map every gene in the human DNA by 2005, and
3 then determine aspects of its function;

4 (8) in June 2000, ahead of schedule and under
5 budget, Francis Collins announced the completion of
6 a first draft of the human genome;

7 (9) the sequencing of the human genome, which
8 was completed in April 2003, is one of the most sig-
9 nificant advances in modern science;

10 (10) Francis Collins remains committed to
11 making the data from the human genome accessible
12 to the worldwide scientific community, and has been
13 a tireless champion of genetic information non-
14 discrimination;

15 (11) Francis Collins remains at the forefront of
16 understanding the connection between genes and dis-
17 ease, which he believes will eventually lead to a new
18 field of individualized, prevention-oriented medicine;
19 and

20 (12) Francis Collins has received numerous
21 awards and honors for his work, including the Presi-
22 dential Medal of Freedom, and is a member of the
23 Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of
24 Sciences.

1 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

2 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
3 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
4 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
5 award, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of ap-
6 propriate design to Francis Collins for his outstanding
7 contributions in the fields of medicine and genetics.

8 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
9 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
10 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
11 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
12 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
13 Secretary.

14 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

15 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
16 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
17 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2, at
18 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
19 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
20 and the cost of the gold medal.

21 **SEC. 4. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.**

22 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
23 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
24 of title 31, United States Code.

25 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
26 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals

1 struck pursuant to this Act shall be considered numis-
2 matic items.

3 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS**
4 **OF SALE.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be charged against the United States
7 Mint Public Enterprise Fund, such sums as may be nec-
8 essary to pay for the cost of the medals struck pursuant
9 to this Act.

10 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
11 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
12 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
13 Fund.

○