

create an environment more hospitable to wildlife. These foods are resilient and can grow in areas often inhospitable to agriculture. Genetically modified foods hold great promise in alleviating hunger in developing areas of the world.

The European Union, acting without scientific basis, enacted a moratorium on genetically modified foods in October 1998. Since then, this moratorium has blocked more than \$300 million annually in American corn exports to countries in the European Union. This action has had a damaging effect on agricultural exports from the United States, particularly from Iowa.

Allow me to describe the devastating effect this action has had on many developing countries in Africa. Earlier this year, I traveled to several nations in sub-Saharan Africa. I met people trying to help themselves with their own hard work, and through the humanitarian efforts of the United States and other nations. Far too many people in Africa depend on food from other countries, and far too many are starving. Genetically modified food could withstand the intolerant climate and harsh growing landscapes common in the area. But because of fear about future exports to Europe, these African nations have held back from a wonderful opportunity to promote agriculture in their own nations. Just last year, humanitarian food aid sent to Africa from the United States was rejected. Mr. Speaker, this is wrong.

Iowa is America's second-largest agriculture exporter, sending \$3.2 billion worth of commodities and value-added products overseas. There is much promise in using biotechnology to change to the face of agriculture. Biotechnology is now being researched to create custom-made pharmaceuticals and renewable ingredients for industrial use. The cities of Waterloo and Davenport in my district are working to make value-added agriculture the driving force of their economic growth. They are making significant investments to reach this end. It is clear that continued research and production is needed to make these investments pay off for these communities and the rest of the Midwest.

Mr. Speaker, we took a tremendous step forward by granting the President trade promotion authority. As the U.S. begins to negotiate trade agreements with this authority, it is critical we demonstrate that protectionist and discriminatory practices, like those used by the EU, will not be tolerated. The U.S. must now take further action within the WTO. I applaud the President and the U.S. Trade Representative's interest in taking action on this critical issue now. Accordingly, I urge passage of this resolution supporting Administration efforts through the WTO.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I cautiously approach my colleagues' zealous concern about the European Union's long-standing moratorium on agriculture and biotech products. The World Trade Organization agreement does recognize that countries are entitled to regulate crops and food products to protect health and the environment. However, WTO members must have sufficient evidence for their regulations and must operate approval procedures without "undue delay." The EU's current moratorium lacks sufficient justification and at 5 years has reached a point of undue delay.

At the same time, consumers have a right to know what they are eating and the food indus-

try should remain transparent and accountable. I fully support labeling and a comprehensive paper trail that would ensure that consumers are aware when they are purchasing genetically modified ingredients.

I am more cautious than the Bush administration on this issue, but also feel the European Union's moratorium is extreme. I support this resolution in the spirit of fair trade, but urge my colleagues and the administration to not interfere with consumer awareness to be gained by labeling and industry transparency.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time has expired.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 252, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

—

RECOGNIZING SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE OF SEQUENCING OF HUMAN GENOME AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR GOALS AND IDEALS OF HUMAN GENOME MONTH AND DNA DAY

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 110) recognizing the sequencing of the human genome as one of the most significant scientific accomplishments of the past 100 years and expressing support for the goals and ideals of Human Genome Month and DNA Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 110

Whereas April 25, 2003, will be the 50th anniversary of the publication of the description of the double-helix structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in *Nature* magazine by James D. Watson and Francis H.C. Crick, which is considered by many scientists to be one of the most significant scientific discoveries of the twentieth century;

Whereas their discovery launched a field of inquiry that explained how DNA carries biological information in the genetic code and how this information is duplicated and passed from generation to generation, forming the stream of life that connects us all to our ancestors and to our descendants;

Whereas this field of inquiry in turn was crucial to the founding and continued growth of the field of biotechnology, which has led to historic scientific and economic advances for the world, advances in which the people of the United States have played a leading role and from which they have realized significant benefits;

Whereas, in April 2003, the international Human Genome Project will achieve essential completion of the finished reference sequence of the human genome, which carries all the biological information needed to construct the human form;

Whereas the Human Genome Project will be completed ahead of schedule and under budget;

Whereas all data from the Human Genome Project is provided free of charge to the public as soon as it is available;

Whereas the sequencing of the human genome has already fostered biomedical research discoveries that have led to improvements in human health;

Whereas the Human Genome Project has provided an exemplary model for social responsibility in scientific research, by devoting significant resources to studying the ethical, legal, and social implications of the project;

Whereas, in April 2003, the National Human Genome Research Institute of the National Institutes of Health will publish a new plan for genomic research;

Whereas this new plan will establish priorities for the future of genomic research, predict future developments in understanding heredity, and serve as a guide in applying this knowledge to improve human health; and

Whereas the National Human Genome Research Institute has designated April 2003 as "Human Genome Month" in celebration of the completion of the sequencing of the human genome and April 25, 2003, as "DNA Day" in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the publication of the description of the structure of DNA on April 25, 1953: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) recognizes the sequencing of the human genome as one of the most significant scientific accomplishments of the past one hundred years;

(2) honors the 50th anniversary of the outstanding accomplishment of describing the structure of DNA, the essential completion of the sequencing of the human genome in April 2003, and the development a plan for the future of genomics;

(3) supports the goals and ideals of Human Genome Month and DNA Day; and

(4) encourages schools, museums, cultural organizations, and other educational institutions in the United States to recognize Human Genome Month and DNA Day with appropriate programs and activities centered on human genomics, using information and materials provided through the National Human Genome Research Institute and other sources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House concurrent resolution 110.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 110, a concurrent resolution recognizing the sequencing of the human genome as one of the most significant scientific accomplishments of the past 100 years

and expressing support for the goals and ideals of Human Genome Month and DNA Day.

This legislation, introduced by our colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), was unanimously approved by the Committee on Energy and Commerce on April 30 of this year.

□ 1345

April 2003 marked the 50th anniversary of a momentous achievement in biology: James Watson and Francis Crick's Nobel Prize-winning description of the double helix structure of DNA. In addition, this past April we celebrated the culmination one of the most important scientific projects in history, the sequencing of the human genome.

The science and technology of genomics have become the foundation of research and biotechnology for the 21st century. In addition, health care has undergone phenomenal changes, driven in part by the Human Genome Project and accompanying advances in human genetics. While these advances will certainly present a myriad of challenges for policymakers, I feel confident that this information will truly revolutionize the practice of medicine and greatly improve our quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support passage of H. Con. Res. 110.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for his good work and bipartisanship and thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) for authoring H. Con. Res. 110.

I rise in support of this resolution and recognize its two major advancements in public health: The 50th anniversary of the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA and the completion recently of the Human Genome Project.

Fifty years ago, Dr. James Watson and Dr. Francis Crick published a structure of DNA. It is likely that neither of these scientists fully understood the enormous impact that their discovery would have on our Nation's public health, from historic advances to disease diagnosis to life-saving medicine to reform of our everyday vocabulary. Their scientific discovery laid the groundwork for another milestone of the evolution of science; that is, the completion of the Human Genome Project ahead of schedule and under budget.

While the investment in this project was modest in some ways by U.S. standards, the return promises to be extraordinary. Doctors will have tools to assess diseases in terms of their causes, not just their symptoms. An entire genome of an organism can be known in a matter of weeks or months,

not years or decades. Scientists will begin to know why some people and not others get sick from certain infections or environmental exposures.

We can only begin to imagine what this means for health care delivery. Clearly, being asked by your family doctor about your family history will take on a whole new meaning. The Human Genome Project will strengthen the roots of innovation, foster tomorrow's breakthrough discoveries: discoveries like that of Dr. Watson and Dr. Crick which offer every person the opportunity of a longer, healthier life.

With genetics and the burgeoning fields of genomics, we have truly moved into a new era. Already friends and loved ones benefit from what we have learned about genetic links to diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, breast and ovarian cancer, colorectal cancer, cystic fibrosis, and Huntington's disease and others. We should not overlook the impact this investment has on the public health infrastructure as whole. When we invest in research, we are also investing in education.

The NIH reports that Ph.D. faculty at U.S. med schools has increased by double digits as a result of the Federal investment in research. These discoveries raise important policy issues, to be sure, like the importance of strong genetic nondiscrimination policies.

My colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the sponsor of this resolution, has introduced legislation to address the potential abuse of genetic information by insurers and by employers. That is a real issue. That is one we absolutely in this body have a duty to address.

Genomics offers exciting opportunities to strengthen our public health system and can take us into a new era of health and health care. I am pleased to be a sponsor of the Slaughter resolution and I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding the legion of talented scientists who significantly contributed to these achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 110, a resolution commending the completion of the sequencing of the human genome and the 50th anniversary of the description of the double helix which makes up the DNA.

As past chairman of the Task Force on Health Care and Genetic Privacy, I think we need to commend the folks at NIH for their outpouring of work. As someone who studied science myself as a former electrical engineer, I stand in awe of the frontier that we are starting to move into with genetics.

As many of us know, genetics is the study of single genes and their effects on human health. Genomics is a relatively new field of scientific research that includes not only the study of single genes but also the functions and interaction of all genes that comprise a genome.

The human genome is a collection of about 35,000 genes that give rise to life. Each gene is made up of a series of base pairs, tiny DNA units denoted by A, C, T, and G. There are about 3.12 billion of these genetic letters. Spanning nearly two decades, the Human Genome Project is the international research effort to determine the sequencing of all these genetic letters or, as we like to call it, a genetic blueprint for humans.

Congress invested significant tax dollars, primarily at the National Institutes of Health, just to advance this project. And we did so here in Congress, because the human genome findings will pave the way for what we hope will be a breakthrough of information on the new ways to prevent and, of course, cure diseases.

I think we are just beginning to see the results of this investment. Just as scientists have decoded the genetic map that defines us as human beings, we will now need to decipher how well the Federal bureaucracy is working to advance this promising area of genomics research.

Genomics research transcends every institute and center at NIH. It has implications for how we study every disease. Two short weeks ago, the Committee on Energy and Commerce held a hearing to learn more about genomics research. At that time, members had the opportunity to hear from the leading scientists in the world about this research. We also learned that we are right on track with a new project underway to ensure that our investments at the National Institutes of Health are fully maximized.

As the authorizing committee at NIH, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is conducting an extensive review to determine how well NIH is advancing medical research. All of us have been touched by someone afflicted with a disease.

In my district of Jacksonville, Florida, a collaborative NIH study between the Mayo Clinic and Shands Hospital is leading the charge for screening for the gene that leads to strokes.

Just last year, NIH began its first phase of a clinical trial on a drug compound that has shown promise in addressing the most life-threatening symptoms of ataxia, a heart condition. Because of these answers in sequencing of the human genome, more progress has been made in understanding the underlying mechanism of this disorder than in the previous 133 years.

Research advances like this mean something real to patients. It is the hope that they are looking for when they need all the courage they can muster to fight a debilitating disease.

So today we pay tribute to a major scientific achievement. Let us keep working to speed forward more achievements like this to bring hope to all patients that are suffering from diseases throughout the world.

It is our responsibility to ensure that NIH is held accountable on behalf of our patients. It is our responsibility to remove barriers that unnecessarily delay the incredible progress we are making in improving human health.

We were just beginning. So I encourage all of my colleagues to assist our effort in this great task. I encourage my colleagues to vote for H. Con. Res. 110. It is altogether appropriate for us to pay tribute today to the outstanding accomplishments of our Nation's scientists in this groundbreaking achievement of sequencing the human genome. These same scientists will lead the way with an even bigger project: determining how to translate the outline of the human genome into real public health solutions.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon also in support of H. Con. Res. 110 and to recognize what is perhaps the greatest scientific endeavor of the 21st century, the Human Genome Project, which will forever change the way medicine is practiced and research is conducted. Moreover, it has important implications for how we look at and define each other.

The practical consequences of the emergence of this new field are widely apparent. Identification of the genes responsible for certain human diseases, once a staggering task requiring large research teams and many years of hard work and an uncertain outcome, can now be routinely accomplished in a few weeks.

This discovery also holds out new hope for wellness for African Americans and other minority populations. Sickle cell disease was the first genetics disease to be identified but needs more effort and resources devoted towards a cure.

I want to take this opportunity to applaud Howard University's College of Medicine who, just a few weeks ago, announced a partnership with First Genetic Trust, Inc., to develop the first-ever massive data bank of DNA of individuals of African descent. Called the Genomic Research in the African Diaspora Biobank or GRAD Biobank, the data will advance the study of genetic and biological bases for differential disease risk, progression, and drug response.

But beyond deciphering what the human genome will do for science, it gives us new understanding of the molecular processes underlying disease and disease susceptibility, and it opens heretofore unknown doors that take us

beyond treatment to the correction of the origins of disease. This discovery can also be a defining moment in human history for other reasons.

As Dr. Georgia Dunston, the Director of the National Human Genome Center at Howard University, pointed out at our health braintrust meeting a few years ago, this monumental discovery also challenges the current paradigm of race and ethnicity and all that follows from those concepts, because in her words, "The most salient feature of human identity at the sequence level is variation. Human genome sequence variation dispels the myth of a majority."

Anthropologists, Dr. Dunston told us, have estimated that less than 1 percent of the total gene pool code for the phenotypic characteristics, such as eye, hair and skin color, is what is used to classify human populations, in other words, to divide us.

Whether or not African American or Hispanic American, Anglo or White American, Native American, Asian/Pacific Islander or Alaskan Native, it turns out that we are 99 percent alike.

So as we celebrate Human Genome Month and DNA Day, in addition to focusing on what this discovery will do to ensure that all populations are knowledgeable about the science underpinning the HGP and have the opportunity to participate in various ways, such as becoming research scientists, research participants and policy-makers, it is also important for everyone to be informed about the Human Genome Project and understand the ethical, legal, and social implications resulting from genetics and genomics research.

Through our continued efforts to educate ourselves, to reach out to our communities, and to communicate our fears, needs, and responsibilities, we as government policymakers have the best opportunity to have genetics and science improve the quality of life for all Americans and make this a better country.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me join in with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for their wisdom in bringing this legislation to the floor, and certainly to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) who I enthusiastically join, along with the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) on this important legislative initiative.

H. Con. Res. 110 is a resolution that helps to educate our colleagues but also it speaks truth to the American people. As a member of the House Com-

mittee on Science, we spent many, many hours on the question of the human genome and the Human Genome Project in particular. Recognizing the sequencing of the human genome as one of the most significant scientific accomplishments of the past 100 years and expressing support of the goals and ideals of the Human Genome Month and DNA Day really is a statement about life.

□ 1400

It is a statement about the ability of the new science to be able, Mr. Speaker, to create life where there is none, to create better improved health where that was not a possibility 10, 15 or 50 years ago.

It is crucial as the human genome project achieves its essential completion of the finished reference sequence of the human genome that carries all of the biological information needed that we begin to utilize this project; and one of the challenges that we have in this Congress is the whole question of human cloning. It is important not to equate these projects and this research and human genome work and DNA with the idea of the creation of a human being.

It is important now as we have begun or understand the sequence that we allow this project to grow and to be utilized to help us determine the cures for diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, stroke, and, yes, HIV/AIDS. The more we understand about the human being and its makeup, the more we can create a better way of life.

We well know of our renowned fiction character Superman, who is no longer a superhero in real life, who is trying time after time with a number of efforts to find the cure for those who suffer spinal injuries, some of the most devastating injuries that we will face. As we look to the wounded who will be coming home from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, they will be coming home with major injuries, some continuing to be life-threatening. The greater knowledge of our ability to be able to respond to those kinds of devastating injuries, although they are not by disease but by devastating injuries, physical injuries through weapons, the better off we will be. The more we can find a way to determine and fight against the war against bioterrorism, the better off we will be.

This is an excellent resolution, Mr. Speaker, because it educates my colleagues and educates the public.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), sponsor of this resolution who has showed particular interest in the issue of non-discrimination of genetics.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 110, a resolution that I was pleased to author with my colleagues, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN),

the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking member.

This resolution recognizes a set of milestones in the history of human scientific endeavors. In April of 1953, two young scientists by the names of James Watson and Francis Crick published an article in the journal "Nature" describing the structure of a molecule known as deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA. In doing so, they opened the doors to an entirely new field of research that explained the information carrying the genetic code and the way it is duplicated, translated, and activated.

This field of research culminated 2 months ago with the announcement that the next generation of scientists had completed a full map of the human genome. Every one of the 3 billion base pairs in a strand of human DNA has been identified. This singular achievement is the result of more than a decade of concerted planning, international cooperation, and single-minded dedication to the cause. It is a scientific accomplishment of the highest order, emblematic of the advances in human knowledge of which we are capable when we work together across all divisions.

When the human genome project was initiated, the technology to carry it through did not exist. It was invented as the research sped along. Congress, to its credit, considered this endeavor worthy of funding and had faith in our scientists' ability to achieve it. It was, therefore, also a stunning example of the vision and good of which our government is capable.

H. Con. Res. 110 expresses the sense of the U.S. Congress that we recognize these achievements for the historical landmarks that they are. The resolution also lends its support to the designation of April as Human Genome Month and April 25 as DNA Day. Furthermore, it encourages schools, museums, cultural organizations, and other educational organizations to recognize the dates with appropriate programs and activities.

Even though the resolution does not specifically do so, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to commend the individual who has directed the human genome projects since 1993, my good friend, Dr. Francis Collins. Dr. Collins began his career as a brilliant scientist, a pioneer in the field of genetics and discoverer of the gene for cystic fibrosis. He has continue his career, however, as a brilliant administrator, a truly remarkable progression.

Under his leadership, the human genome project has been completed under budget and ahead of schedule. Dr. Collins guided and shaped the initiative for a full decade, bringing it to fruition. Our Nation, and indeed, our world, owe him a debt of gratitude.

I am pleased the leadership has agreed to consider this resolution today, and I urge my colleagues to sup-

port it. I would also, however, like to urge the body to take up a far more urgent piece of legislation on the subject of genetics, which is the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act.

The resolution before us today recognizes the immense benefit which the mapping of the human genome may have for us. The Genetic Nondiscrimination Act would forestall the darker consequences that could arise through this new technology. We must not allow the potential advances in human health to be stifled because Americans fear that their genetic information may be used against them.

I urge the leadership to take up and pass the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employee Act as quickly as possible.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his good work on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the cooperation of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN). He has always been very cooperative. This is an illustration of bipartisanship at work and all the work obviously of the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER).

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, every day we wake up and are faced with new discoveries. We read about the depths of space that we can only now see with the Hubble Telescope. We learn about tremendous achievement in nanotechnology, like the printing of a Bible that can fit on a pencil eraser. We have been to the moon and back, landed robots on Mars and cured diseases that have plagued mankind for millennia. Yet, Mr. Speaker, in this litany of great achievements one that stands out above all, is to have learned the very vocabulary of life, to have mapped the entire human genome.

I rise today in support of this resolution and to recognize that the sequencing of the human genome is indeed one of the greatest scientific accomplishments of the past one hundred years, indeed of all of history.

But Mr. Speaker, I rise with special pride because of Long Island's unique contribution in the quest to map the genome. Much of the work to sequence the genome took place at Cold Spring Harbor Lab on Long Island, and in particular, by a brilliant scientist I am privileged to know: Dr. James Watson.

Dr. Watson, along with Francis Crick, discovered the structure of DNA. For this accomplishment they shared the 1962 Nobel Prize in Physiology of Medicine with Maurice Wilkins. Their revolutionary concept was that the DNA molecule takes the shape of a double helix, and elegantly simple structure that resembles a gently twisted ladder.

Mr. Speaker, my children learn about the double helix today in science class. We take it for granted. We watch Law and Order and CSI and hear about DNA testing and we go to the doctor to find out if we have a genetic marker for a specific disease.

Yet we almost never stop to think about this phenomenal breakthrough. It is amazing that in fewer than fifty years we have come so far. We should all be very proud that this achievement occurred here in the United States, a

testament to our ongoing strengths, continuing leadership in science and technology.

The human genome provides us with the most basic information of life. What we do with that information is up to us. Dr. Watson and his colleagues have gotten us this far. It is my hope, that through efforts like Human Genome Month and DNA Day, our young people will be inspired to make the great scientific leaps of tomorrow—applying the genetic map to conquering dreaded diseases and improving the quality of life on our planet.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 110, a resolution that I was pleased to author with my colleagues, Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman TAUZIN and Ranking Member DINGELL.

This resolution recognizes a set of milestones in the history of human scientific endeavors. In April 1953, two young scientists by the name of James Watson and Francis Crick published an article in the journal Nature describing the structure of a molecule known as deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA. In doing so, they opened the doors to an entirely new field of research—that exploring the information carried in the genetic code and the way it is duplicated, translated, and activated.

This field of research culminated two months ago with the announcement that the next generation of scientists had completed a full map of the human genome. Every one of the three billion base pairs in a string of human DNA has been identified. This singular achievement is the result of more than a decade of concerted planning, international cooperation, and single-minded dedication to the cause. It is a scientific accomplishment of the highest order, emblematic of the advances in human knowledge of which we were capable when we work together across all divisions.

When the Human Genome Project was initiated, the technology to carry it through did not exist. It was invented as the research sped along. Congress, to its credit, considered this endeavor worthy of funding and had faith in our scientists' ability to achieve it. It was, therefore, also a stunning example of the vision and good of which our government is capable.

H. Con. Res. 110 expresses the sense of the U.S. Congress that we recognize these achievements for the historical landmarks they are. The resolution also lends its support to the designation of April as Human Genome Month and April 25 as DNA Day. Furthermore, it encourages schools, museums, cultural organizations, and other educational institutions to recognize these dates with appropriate programs and activities.

Even though the resolution does not specifically do so, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to commend the individual who has directed the Human Genome Project since 1993: my good friend, Dr. Francis Collins. Dr. Collins began his career as a brilliant scientist, a pioneer in the field of genetics, and discoverer of the gene for cystic fibrosis. He has continued his career, however, as a brilliant administrator—a truly remarkable progression. Under his leadership, the Human Genome Project has been completed under budget and ahead of schedule. Dr. Collins guided and shaped the initiative for a full decade, bringing it to fruition. Our nation, and indeed our world, owe him a debt of gratitude.

I am pleased that the leadership has agreed to consider this resolution today, and I urge

my colleagues to support it. I would also, however, like to urge this body to take up a far more urgent piece of legislation on the subject of genetics: the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act. The resolution before us today recognizes the immense benefit which the mapping of the human genome may have for us. The Genetic Nondiscrimination Act would forestall the darker consequences that could arise from this new technology. We must not allow the potential advances in human health to be stifled because Americans fear that their genetic information will be used against them. I urge the leadership to take up and pass the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act as quickly as possible.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers; and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 110.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### PATSY TAKEMOTO MINK POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2030) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 Baldwin Avenue in Paia, Maui, Hawaii, as the "Patsy Takemoto Mink Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2030

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. PATSY TAKEMOTO MINK POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 Baldwin Avenue in Paia, Maui, Hawaii, shall be known and designated as the "Patsy Takemoto Mink Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Patsy Takemoto Mink Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2030.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be part of the consideration of H.R. 2030, a bill introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE), that designates the postal facility in Paia, Maui, Hawaii, as the Patsy Takemoto Mink Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Patsy Mink was a devoted public servant and a friend to all who served here in the House. She was a passionate representative for her Hawaiian constituents for 26 years, despite having to make the 10-hour flight home almost every weekend. For that alone, she deserves commendation.

Congresswoman Mink was a particular advocate of health, education, and civil rights issues during her tenure in the House; but her career was perhaps best known for her tireless work for gender equality. Congresswoman Mink authored the Women's Education Equity Act, and she was a coauthor of the original title IX legislation. She was an esteemed member of the Committee on Government Reform, the committee that just last month passed by voice vote this bill that honors her. I am pleased that this bill has now come up for consideration by the whole House.

Congresswoman Patsy Mink sadly passed away last September 28 during her 13th congressional term. Patsy Mink won her first election to the House in 1964 and only two current Members of this body were first elected earlier. A long congressional career never took the spring out of her exuberant step or the warmth from her caring heart; and even after her passing, her remarkable service in this House for the people of Hawaii and this entire Nation will certainly never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 2030 that honors the life and career of Congresswoman Patsy Mink. I congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from Hawaii, for introducing this meaningful and important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), in consideration of H.R. 2030, which names a postal facility after the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink.

H.R. 2030, which was introduced by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE)

on May 8, 2003, has met the committee policy and has been cosponsored by more than just the State delegation. The bill currently lists 115 cosponsors, truly a testament to the accomplishments of our late colleague, the Honorable Patsy Mink, who sadly passed away on September 28, 2002.

Congresswoman Mink was first elected to Congress in 1964 and served until 1976. She took a 14-year hiatus from national politics and returned to her congressional seat in 1990, where she remained until her death in 2002.

Congresswoman Mink served on the Committee on Government Reform for a year in 1991 before being assigned to the House Committee on the Budget. She returned to our committee in 1999 where she served until her death last year. As a distinguished member of the Committee on Government Reform, Congresswoman Mink was committed to writing important legislation, such as the bill that would increase the mandatory retirement age of law enforcement officials.

As a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Congresswoman Mink fought hard for the rights of women and children. She cosponsored title IX, the Early Childhood Education Act and the Women's Educational Equity Act.

During her last few years in Congress, Congresswoman Mink continued to work on such important issues as immigration, Social Security, and health care. Throughout her brilliant career, the Congresswoman provided the strong voice to those who needed one. Her accomplishments will continue to benefit Americans for generations to come. It is only fitting that we share our gratitude by honoring her in this manner.

I would also urge my colleagues to remember our late colleague as a fighter for children and the working class. I note she would have joined us in our push to bring the child tax credit bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE), for honoring Patsy Mink with the postal designation. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the chairman, and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member, for moving this bill to the House floor and Anne Stewart of the gentleman from Hawaii's (Mr. CASE) staff for her hard work.

I urge swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this moment. Therefore, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE), the author of this legislation.

(Mr. CASE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)