

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, the goal of stem cell research should be to help our fellow human beings. The debate on this issue has, unfortunately, moved into dangerous unethical territory when perfectly moral alternatives exist.

Rather than debating about unethical methods of research, effective, principled alternatives should be sought out that successfully treat patients and offer potential channels for further treatment and research. There are countless opportunities besides embryonic stem cell research that have proven successful.

Adult stem cells have shown great potential and have effectively helped patients. Another alternative is cord-blood stem cells. These are a neglected resource that could be used to treat a diverse body of people. Evidence has demonstrated that cord-blood stem cells have treated a variety of problems, such as spinal cord injuries and neurological diseases.

By supporting H.R. 2520 later today, progress can be made in finding solutions to many medical questions we have to face. H.R. 2520 provides an ethical solution to this issue, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

#### STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today the House can vote to give millions of Americans suffering from diseases new hope. Patients, doctors, and scientists are desperately awaiting the potential that stem cell research has for treating diseases like Alzheimer's, ALS, cancer, heart diseases, diabetes, spinal cord injuries, and so many others.

My State of California is already on the way. Californians overwhelmingly support this research and decided not to tie the hands of our scientists, not to block the promising new opportunities that stem cell research affords.

Now our Congress has the opportunity to follow suit. This is the kind of research we wanted when we created the National Institutes of Health. Federally funded research ensures that the public benefits and that the research is ethically conducted.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 810.

#### YOUNGER GENERATION IMPORTANT IN DISCUSSIONS OF SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, during the month of May, many parents and grandparents, as myself, will begin to celebrate college graduations and high

school graduations of the next generation of workers in this country. This is the group that we should be engaging in the debate on Social Security reform. This is the group that stands the most risk if the current system cannot sustain itself.

I encourage my colleagues to engage this group of individuals as we begin this debate, to help them understand how important it is that we put back the security in Social Security for this generation, and that we help them understand the role that a safety net of Social Security has within an overall retirement package.

So I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to begin this debate with these newly fresh-minted graduates as they take their place in exciting new careers and as they conduct their lives and help us with Social Security.

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#### URGING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 810, STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

(Mr. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today we will take up H.R. 810, the stem cell research bill; and I agree with the distinguished majority leader. The debate that we have today will be about life and death. It will be about the lives of many millions of children who have diabetes, who want to live a fulfilling life and have hope for finding cures at some point in the future, about those who are paralyzed, about those who have congenital heart problems, about those who suffer from cancer and Alzheimer's and other diseases, debilitating diseases.

We need to give the scientific community an opportunity to address these important issues and to do so in such a fashion that is ethical, that has adequate government oversight, that does not allow other countries around the world to take over. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 810, with its 200 cosponsors, will pass today because America wants to find cures for these diseases and not leave it to other countries around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to support H.R. 810.

#### STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, as Americans, we continually strive toward progress. Today we find at our disposal a tool for healing that is unlike any the world has previously known, a tool with the potential to cure our most terrible diseases and ease the suffering of over a half million Americans in my State alone.

Our Nation is blessed with the greatest minds and resources on the planet. My district, Missouri five, there are two citizens, Jim and Virginia Stowers, who have dedicated their personal fortune of nearly \$2 billion to conduct basic biomedical research and fight these diseases. The Stowers Institute employs brilliant researchers from more than 20 countries to use these tools to bridge the gap between diseases and cures.

Across the United States, Americans are voicing their support for stem cell research. Poll after poll shows that Americans, regardless of political affiliation or religion, support using stem cell research as a tool to fight diseases. As a fourth generation ordained minister, I am delighted to be able to support H.R. 810 to ease the suffering.

#### PROTECT ZARA AND THE SNOWFLAKES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am a big supporter of stem cell research. But I do not support the dissecting and destruction of living human embryos to do so.

Steve Johnson from Reading, Pennsylvania, agrees with me. A bicycle incident, an accident, he had 11 years ago replaced his bike with a wheelchair. He has heard that embryonic stem cells might help him walk again. For Steve, though, that is unacceptable, using embryos. The way that H.R. 810 would find those cells is through the destruction of IVF living embryos. He and his wife, Kate, adopted his daughter, Zara, as an embryo from an IVF clinic when she was just a frozen embryo. And H.R. 810 would have killed Zara as an embryo for her stem cells.

There are 20 others like this child here in town today—the “snowflakes”—babies who developed from embryos given by their biological parents to a couple unable to conceive on their own. If H.R. 810 were law, there is a good chance they would not be here at all. They are living human embryos, and there are many of them that should be adopted, not dissected.

The sad thing is that Steve is more likely to be treated not with embryonic stem cell research but with stem cells from his own body. Adult stem cell treatments are helping people walk today, in 67 different diseases and treatments. The proponents of H.R. 810 can produce no such results. There are none for embryonic stem cells.

#### IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 810, STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, we will be hearing a great deal today about the humane and helpful and hopeful research of embryonic stem cells. This is an advance similar to advances in past years of blood transfusions and organ transplants. And to be fair, some patients do not want to take part in blood transfusions and organ transplants for personal reasons.

However, for most Americans, embryonic stem cell research falls well within public ethical standards. It is something that we should be supporting.

We will hear from some today that cord blood and adult stem cells hold promise. Not nearly so much promise as embryonic stem cells. Supporting cord blood research at the expense of supporting embryonic stem cell research is like buying a Schwinn bicycle to travel across the country. Potentially useful, but it is not likely to get us there.

This is something that is well within the public ethical norms. We should be supporting H.R. 810.

#### HONORING THE REVEREND DOUG WESTMORELAND

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, one of the privileges we have from time to time is to stand and recognize those in our community who do good, who improve the quality of life, who make our communities a better place to live.

And today I have that opportunity to recognize Reverend Douglas Westmoreland, the pastor of Tusculum Hills Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. In June of 1975, 30 years ago, Reverend Westmoreland answered the call and began sharing his ministry with the members of Tusculum Hills Baptist Church.

It is my privilege today to join with those members and to thank him for his appreciation of the congregation, for his guidance he has given the congregation and the inspiration that he has given not only to the congregation but also to our entire community. We thank Reverend Westmoreland for his continued service, and I thank the Members of this body for joining me in honoring him.

#### THE ISSUE OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we are going to take up a bill this morning that would greatly expand Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, and that is the issue this morning, the issue of Federal funding for this process. The question is, are we

going to use taxpayer dollars for destruction of human embryos in order to further a certain line of research?

President Bush in 2001 outlined his policy. There are 78 stem cell lines available at the National Institutes of Health available for study. Today's bill would in fairness expand those lines but would do so at the expense of human embryos that would be human embryos destroyed with taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, there is no prohibition on any couple who has an embryonic at an IVF clinic, at a reproductive endocrinologist clinic, who wishes to donate that embryo to a private lab for development into a stem cell line. That can happen today. There is no such prohibition.

But, Mr. Speaker, the issue today is whether or not we are going to use taxpayer dollars to fund that process. I believe the President had it right in 2001. It was correct to put parameters and boundaries around this research.

#### URGING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT FEDERAL FUNDING OF STEM CELL AND CORD BLOOD RESEARCH

(Mr. COOPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, if Members are interested in finding a cure for Parkinson's disease, diabetes, cancer, and many other of the dread diseases that we face, please vote for this stem cell bill today and please vote for the cord blood bill today. They need to vote for both.

The narrow issue may seem whether we expand federally funded research into embryonic stem cell work, but I think a better way to view the issue is whether we allow the continual discarding of embryos from IVF clinics or whether we allow those to be used for productive and life-giving research. This is a very important moment for this House. I would urge all of my colleagues to do the right thing for the future of our kids and grandkids because this research needs to be conducted. It needs to be conducted with Federal support. It needs to be conducted here in America.

There was a break-through just last week in South Korea. Are we going to send our loved ones overseas in order to get this lifesaving research? We should do it here.

#### URGING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2520 AND H.R. 810, STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. CASTLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I just left a press conference; and four of the speakers there spoke about their diseases, none of which could be cured by

adult stem cell research: a form of cancer, Parkinson's, juvenile diabetes, and a person who is a paraplegic.

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that every single one of us has many constituents who have been to our offices over the years who have had these problems and have come to our offices for help. This is not the time to allow bad science or ideology to get in the way of doing what is right for the people of this country and of the world. There are 110 million people in the United States of America who potentially could be helped by embryonic stem cell research.

I have just been going through what some of the experts have said. One said: "Umbilical cord and embryonic stem cells are not in any way interchangeable," David Scadden, co-director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute.

The National Institutes of Health said: "Human embryonic stem cells are thought to have much greater developmental potential than adult stem cells. This means that embryonic stem cells may be pluripotent, that is, able to give rise to cells found in all tissues of the embryo except for germ cells rather than being merely multipotent."

"The bottom line, as far as I'm concerned, is we just don't know at this point what each can do, and we ought to be investigating both," Dr. Joanne Kutzberg at Duke University.

One expert after another has said that there is tremendous potential there. Let us not let it go to waste. Vote "yes" on both of these bills.

#### AGAINST FORCING PRO-LIFE COMMUNITY TO FUND EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I have enormous respect for the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and for the sincerity of his purpose in bringing forward legislation today that would fund the destruction of human embryos for the purpose of scientific research with Federal tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I am not a scientist. I do know that there have been more than 60 successful treatments using adult stem cells; there have been zero treatments developed using embryonic stem cells.

But let us be clear today about this debate. Embryonic stem cell research today, despite my objection and the objection of tens of millions of pro-life Americans, embryonic stem cell research is legal in America today. It goes on using private dollars every day. The debate on the floor today that the gentleman from Delaware just referred to, his legislation has to do with using Federal tax dollars to fund research that involves the destruction of human embryos. I believe it is morally wrong to destroy human embryos for the purposes of research, but I believe it is