

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

doubly morally wrong to force millions of pro-life Americans to see their tax dollars used to support research that they find morally offensive.

Let the debate begin.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 291 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 291

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2419) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except for section 104. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1030

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 291 is an open rule that provides for the consid-

eration of H.R. 2419, the Fiscal Year 2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule also provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

I would like to take a moment, Mr. Speaker, to reiterate that we bring forth this resolution under a fair and open rule.

Historically, appropriations bills have come to the floor of the House governed by open rules. We continue to do so in order to allow each and every Member of this House the opportunity to submit amendments for consideration, obviously as long as they are germane under the rules of the House.

This legislation before us today, Mr. Speaker, appropriates almost \$30 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Departments of the Interior and Energy, and several independent agencies. This bill is truly fiscally sound, representing a reduction of \$131.7 million from the fiscal year 2005 legislation and the same spending level as was requested by the President in his budget request. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides the resources necessary to address the energy and water needs of the United States.

H.R. 2419 provides \$4.7 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps is the world's premier public engineering organization, responding to the needs of the Nation in peace and in war. For over 200 years the Corps has been involved in such important missions as flood control, shoreline prevention, navigation and safety on the waterways of this great Nation. The vital work of the Corps will continue under this act, which includes a vigorous civil works program.

The bill also includes a number of significant changes to improve project execution and financial management, including more responsible use of reprogramming, continuing contracts and implementation of long-term financial planning.

I would like to highlight a Corps project of particular interest to my community, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program. The restoration of the Everglades, that wonder of nature, is the largest and most significant environmental initiative that this country has ever undertaken. The legislation continues our commitment to the restoration of this environmental treasure with an appropriation of \$137 million. I am pleased to report that Everglades restoration is moving forward expeditiously and effectively. Congress, and the Committee on Appropriations especially, should be proud of this environmentally sound action.

The National Nuclear Security Administration, which includes the nuclear weapons program, defense nuclear nonproliferation, naval reactors and

the Office of the Administrator, is funded at \$3.8 billion, an increase of \$24 million over fiscal year 2005. I am glad to see that the appropriators increased this program. Nonproliferation is essential to the defense of the homeland. Our work across the globe, especially in Russia, makes it ever more difficult for rogue states and terrorists to obtain the weapons necessary to attack the United States or our Armed Forces abroad or our allies.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman HOBSON) for truly extraordinary work on this important legislation. I urge my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to support both the rule and the underlying bill.

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

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

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to today's consideration of H.R. 2419, which reflects much thought and long-term planning on behalf of the Committee on Appropriations. This year's energy and water bill means a great deal to my constituents and to my home in Sacramento.

Sacramento's history has long been intertwined with flood control. When the city endured a near catastrophic flood in 1986, the community quickly realized they did not have nearly the level of flood protection necessary to fully safeguard the region. After the city again faced more floods in 1997, the community set off to achieve 200-year flood protection. However, until that day arrives, flooding remains a very constant and real threat, and continued Federal assistance plays an important role to attaining that goal.

In spite of years of efforts, Sacramento still remains one of the most flood-prone and threatened cities in the country, paling in comparison to the level of protection enjoyed by other river cities. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento's flood risk is among the highest of major urban areas in the country.

Located at the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers, Sacramento is the hub of a six-county regional economy that provides 800,000 jobs for 1.5 million people. A major flood along the American River would cripple this economy, cause between \$7 billion and \$16 billion in direct property damages and likely result in significant loss of life. The risk of serious flooding poses an unacceptable threat to the safety and economic well-being of Sacramento and to California's State Capitol.

With the steady support of Congress, Sacramento has already made good progress toward our initial goal of