

resolution (H. Res. 235) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1262) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for State water pollution control revolving funds, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-24)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication, stating that the Iran emergency declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2009.

The crisis between the United States and Iran resulting from the actions and policies of the Government of Iran that led to the declaration of a national emergency on March 15, 1995, has not been resolved. The actions and policies of the Government of Iran are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 11, 2009.

□ 1730

STEM CELL RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FUDGE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I am very grateful to be here for this hour. And I hope some of my colleagues will join me on a very important discussion about embryonic stem cell research and the huge alternative—"the" alternative—adult stem cells, that have proven beyond any reasonable doubt that it is not only ethical, but it works.

Madam Speaker, at a time when highly significant—even historic—breakthroughs in adult stem cell research have become almost daily occurrences, and almost to the point of being mundane, President Obama has chosen to turn back the clock and, beginning just 3 days ago, will force taxpayers to subsidize the unethical over the ethical, the unworkable over what works, and hype and hyperbole over hope.

Human embryo destroying stem cell research is not only unethical, unworkable, and unreliable, it is now demonstrably unnecessary. Assertions that leftover embryos are better off dead so that their stem cells can be derived is dehumanizing, and it cheapens human life.

There is no such thing as a leftover human life. Ask the snowflake children, Madam Speaker, ask their parents. Snowflake children are those cryogenically frozen embryos who were adopted while still frozen. This past Monday, I had the privilege of being with several of those children. They look just like any other kid, any other child. And those kids could have been subjected to embryo-destroying research or they could have been poured down the drain. But thankfully, the donors, the biological parents, decided that they are better off alive and flourishing. And these kids, like so many of the other snowflake children that I have met in the past, were just like any other child.

Life is a continuum, Madam Speaker. It does not begin at the moment of birth. It starts at the moment of fertilization and continues unabated, unless interfered with, until natural death. Birth is an event that happens to your life and to mine, it is not the beginning of life.

Madam Speaker, a recent spectacular breakthrough in the noncontroversial adult stem cell research and clinical applications to effectuate cures or the mitigation of disease or disability have been well documented. For several years, significant progress has been achieved with adult stem cells derived from nonembryonic sources, including umbilical cord blood, bone marrow, brain, amniotic fluid, skin, and even fat cells. Patients with a myriad of diseases, including leukemia, type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, lupus, sickle cell anemia, and dozens of other diseases have significantly benefited from adult stem cell transfers.

In 2005, Madam Speaker, I wrote a law, the Stem Cell Research and Transplantation Act of 2005. It was legislation that created a national program of bone marrow and cord blood, umbilical cord blood—or that blood that is found in the placenta—that is teeming with stem cells of high value that can be coaxed into becoming pluripotent, capable of becoming anything in the human body.

We know for a fact that cord blood stem cells can mitigate, and in some cases even cure—and there have been

several—those suffering from sickle cell anemia. One out of every 500 African Americans, unfortunately, have sickle cell anemia. And cord blood transfers have the capacity and the capability to effectuate cures or the mitigation of that disease. And we have several examples.

I remember when the bill was stuck—first here, and then on the Senate side. We were able to bring people, including Dr. Julius Erving, to a press conference to appeal to the House and Senate leadership to bring that legislation forward simply because it would save lives, but it was being held hostage by the hype and the hyperbole of embryonic stem cell research, which has not cured anyone. The legislation passed the House. Finally, it was dislodged from the Senate and became law. And now we have a nationwide network overseen by HRSA, under the Department of Health and Human Services, to grow our capacity—the number of specimens of cord blood stem cells—to type it, freeze it, use best practices, and promote cures.

Now, the greatest of all breakthroughs—the greatest, in my opinion, and in the opinion of many eminent scientists—is what is known as induced pluripotent stem cells. And I say to my colleagues, and I say to anyone who may be listening on C-SPAN, iPS cells, induced pluripotent stem cells, are the future and the greatest hope for cures. They are embryo-like, but they are not embryos. There is no killing of an embryo to derive the stem cells.

On November 20, 2007, Japanese scientist, Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, and Wisconsin researcher, Dr. James Thomson, shocked the scientific community by independently announcing their ability to derive induced pluripotent stem cells by reprogramming regular skin cells. And unlike embryonic stem cells that kill the donor, are highly unstable, have a propensity to morph into tumors, and are likely to be rejected by the patient unless strong antirejection medicines are administered, induced pluripotent stem cells, iPS cells, have none of those deficiencies, and again, are emerging as the future, the greatest hope of regenerative medicine.

Mr. Obama is way behind the times. Making Americans pay for embryo-destroying stem cell research is not change we can believe in—far from it—it is politics.

A decade ago, the false hope of embryo-destroying research made it difficult to oppose, no doubt. There was a lot of hype, a lot of hot air—much of it well meaning, perhaps—but it was very misleading. That is no longer the case. So the question arises; why persist in the dehumanizing of nascent human life when better alternatives exist, alternatives that work on both ethics grounds and efficacy grounds? Non-embryonic stem cell research is the present and it is the future of regenerative medicine, and the only responsible way forward.

I would be happy to yield to my good friend and colleague for any time he would like to take.

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

In a week that has already been overcome by a blizzard of legislative activity and news, I rise for two reasons today; number one is to commend the gentleman from New Jersey, whose passion for human rights, for human dignity, for the sanctity of life is in high relief on the floor today. I commend the gentleman for coming to the floor and bringing his passion and his knowledge to this issue in the wake of a profoundly disappointing decision by the President of the United States of America. So I commend the gentleman.

My second point is to simply say that what was most disappointing to me about the President's decision in authorizing the use of taxpayer dollars to fund research that involves the destruction of human embryos is that it seemed to me, Madam Speaker, to be a moment where the President and his party were putting ideology over science. I say that grounded in the notion that that was an accusation that was leveled at those of us on the side of life in the last 8 years, those of us who believed that we ought not to use the taxpayer dollars of millions of pro-life Americans and use it to fund research that involves the destruction of human embryos for scientific purposes. But we were told that we were putting ideology—presumably our pro-life views—over science. But actually, science overcame the debate when, in 2007, nearly 7 full years after President George W. Bush had signed his executive order, and years after Republican majorities in this Congress had authorized tens of millions in increased Federal funding to the National Institutes for Health for ethical adult stem cell research, science came through.

As the gentleman just referred, the extraordinary breakthroughs of not one, but two scientific research teams in 2007 found that adult stem cells could be converted into stem cells that essentially were identical to embryonic stem cells through a process called induced pluripotent stem cell procedure. Now, this was a miracle of science. And I remember full well, I remember seeing a report on all the major television networks that said that science has rendered the debate over destructive embryonic stem cell research moot. It seemed as though science had stepped into one of the most difficult and contentious issues of our times and it had taken it off the table.

Because of these scientific breakthroughs, it would no longer be necessary to even consider using Federal taxpayers to fund research that destroys human embryos because—and the gentleman, I'm sure, will correct me, having forgotten more about this issue than I've learned—but I believe scientists found that by introducing a virus into adult stem cells, that they would convert into that highly dy-

namic mode, they would be induced to take the form of pluripotent stem cells, which scientists have long desired—and have, through private funding, appreciated the opportunity—to do research for the purpose of finding cures and therapies. And so it is not casually that I come to the floor today to say that I believe when President Obama signed an executive order authorizing the use of taxpayer dollars to fund stem cell research that involves the destruction of human embryos, that this administration was putting ideology over science.

I didn't hear a word this week about induced pluripotent stem cells. I heard no reference—I'm happy to stand corrected, Madam Speaker—but I heard no reference by the administration or any of its spokesmen, or by the President, to those extraordinary scientific breakthroughs which obviated the need to use my tax dollars and the taxpayer dollars of millions of pro-life Americans to fund research that destroys human embryos.

So as I prepare to yield back to the gentleman, I come to the floor with really a heavy heart. I mean, I believe the sanctity of life is a central axiom of Western civilization. I believe that ending an innocent human life is morally wrong. But I also believe it is also morally wrong to take the taxpayer dollars of pro-life Americans and use it to fund abortion overseas or to fund research that involves the destruction of human embryos at home. But I found a new layer, Madam Speaker, of wrongness; it's also wrong to do it when it's completely unnecessary. It's wrong to take the taxpayer dollars of millions of pro-life Americans and use it to fund research that destroys human embryos when science itself, in the last year and a half, has made it completely unnecessary to do so. And so it was a moment where this administration put ideology over science.

My hope—and, frankly, my prayer—as we enter into this brave new world that could result in embryonic farms, that could result in ultimately setting us on a path where therapies are developed and, therefore, stem cells need to be cloned, we will no doubt hear, it is my hope and my prayer that science will continue to march forward and will overtake the practice of ideology in this Capitol and reaffirm the principle that human life is sacred, we ought not to use taxpayer dollars of pro-life Americans to destroy nascent human life, and most especially, when it is not scientifically necessary to do so to achieve the extraordinary advances that are taking place.

I commend the gentleman, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank Mr. PENCE for his excellent remarks, and for the logic, the compelling logic that he brings to the floor, not just today, but so often.

This is a human rights issue. It is also a patient issue. You know, one of the overlooked—and the mainstream

press sometimes gets it right, but we are only beginning to see, in some of the commentary post-decision on Monday by President Obama, one of the things he lifted was an executive order that President Bush put into effect on June 20, 2007 expanding approved stem cell lines in ethically responsible ways. And it provided a boost to the National Institutes of Health to do research on alternative sources of pluripotent stem cells that prioritizes research with the greatest potential for clinical benefit. He revoked this—he being President Obama. In other words, that which has worked, that has absolutely stunned, in a positive way, the community, the scientific community, now takes a back seat to what is essentially abortion politics, turning that which is unborn, that which is newly created into a commodity that could be destroyed at will.

□ 1745

Let me also say that the Washington Post had an excellent piece today by Kathleen Parker, and the headline was "Behind the Cell Curve, Why is the President Ignoring a Scientific Gift?"

Kathleen points out: "One fact is that since Obama began running for President, researchers have made some rather amazing strides in alternative stem cell research. Science and ethics finally fell in love, in other words, and Obama seems to have fallen asleep during the kiss. Either that or he decided that keeping an old political promise was more important than acknowledging new developments. In the process he missed an opportunity to prove that he is pro-science but also sensitive to the concerns of taxpayers who don't want to pay for research that requires embryo destruction."

She points out that "in fact, every single one of the successes," every one, "in treating patients with stem cells thus far for spinal cord injuries and multiple sclerosis, for example, have involved adult or umbilical cord blood stem cells, not embryonic stem cells."

"The insistence on using embryonic stem cells always rested on the argument that they were pluripotent, capable of becoming any kind of cell. That superior claim no longer can be made with the spectacular discovery," as I said at the outset, "in 2007 of 'induced pluripotent stem cells,'" or iPS cells, "which was the laboratory equivalent of the airplane. Very simply, iPS cells can be produced from skin cells by injecting genes that force the cells to revert to their primitive 'blank state' form with all the same pluripotent capabilities of embryonic stem cells."

"But 'induced pluripotent stem cells' don't trip easily off the tongue," she goes on to say, "nor have any celebrities stepped forward to expound their virtues. Even without such drama, however, Time Magazine named iPS innovation number one of its Top Ten Scientific Discoveries of 2007, and the Journal of Science rated it the number one breakthrough of 2008."

“The iPS discovery even prompted Ian Wilmut, who led the team that cloned Dolly the sheep, to abandon his license to attempt human cloning, saying that the researchers ‘may have achieved what no politician could: an end to the embryonic stem cell debate.’”

And yet now we see that Barack Obama has put that front and center again, choosing politics over science, over ethics, in promoting embryonic stem cell research when the clear future of stem cell research is in the area of induced pluripotent and in the area of adult stem cells.

I would like to yield to Dr. BROWN, a distinguished medical doctor, for any comments he might have.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As a medical physician, a medical doctor, I’m certainly concerned about my patients, and I can understand people who are in wheelchairs wanting to walk again. I understand people who have Parkinson’s disease wanting to not have the rigidity and shakes that they have with that disease and the degradation of their lifestyle that that horrible disease causes. And I, as a medical doctor, want to find cures for these diseases as well as many others.

But as we look at this issue, I don’t think there’s a single person with Parkinson’s disease or a single person that’s in a wheelchair that would be in favor of killing another human being so that they could walk again or so that they wouldn’t shake and have the rigidity and all the devastating effects of Parkinson’s. I don’t think there’s a person in this country, in this world, who would say “I’m in favor of killing this 2-year-old little girl or this 6-year-old little boy so that my disease will be cured.”

But the facts are very simple. When we do embryonic stem cell research, we’re killing human beings. That’s a separate human being. It’s a separate entity. And that person has the right to live just like you and I do. We can’t forget that. These are people. They may be a one-cell or just a few-cell human beings, individuals, but they are still distinct human beings that have their own genetic makeup, that have their own ability to live if we will just put them in an environment where they can.

Now, I’ve got a friend at home that says that we ought to be able to take our 13 year olds and put them in the ground and dig them up when they’re 25 and they’d be a whole lot better. And there are some parents who threaten to kill their teenage children, but they wouldn’t really. But the thing is we are killing people. We’re killing human beings.

And the unfortunate part of this whole discussion is there has been virtually zero, zero, very little, if any, positive results from killing these human beings, bringing about the research on these human beings. There has been very little. Whereas with

adult stem cells, with germ cells, we see a tremendous promise. And just as you said, Congressman SMITH, the President has put politics and the radical pro-death abortion groups in this country ahead of science. It is a mantra of death and destruction.

I don’t see things as being in the gray area, particularly on this issue. You’re either pro-death or you’re pro-life. You’re pro-abortion or you’re anti-abortion. I have wondered frequently whether this whole issue about embryonic stem cell research was just a mechanism to try to give credence to the abortion industry, just to try to give credence to being able to take that right or at least the designation of personhood away from these human beings that are just one or two cells.

I introduced a bill called the Sanctity of Human Life Act that gives the right of personhood to one-cell human beings. And we have got to stop the killing in America. God commands in Proverbs to speak up to the speechless and the cause of those appointed to die. Congressman SMITH for years and years and years has been coming to the floor and introducing legislation and speaking up for those innocent human beings that are killed through abortion, killed through embryonic stem cell research, and we have got to stop it. God cannot and will not continue to bless America while we’re killing 4,000 babies every day through abortion. We must stop it and do everything that we can. And stopping embryonic stem cell research is also extremely important because these are human beings that God has created. He tells us in His Word that he opens the womb and He closes the womb. I believe in the depth of my heart as a physician that he allows those human beings to be formed, even in a petri dish, and we need to protect them. We need to protect the beginning of life; we need to protect the end of life.

When I graduated from medical school from the Medical College of Georgia in 1971, I made a pledge. It’s an oath. It’s called the Hippocratic oath. They don’t give that in medical school, I don’t think, much anymore, if ever, and the reason they don’t is because of the abortion industry, because in that pledge, in that oath, it says I will not do an abortion. It also says I will do no harm. Embryonic stem cell research kills a human being. It does harm, and physicians who are doing that are breaking their Hippocratic oath if they take it seriously. It’s not a legal document. It’s just something that those of us who believe in doing no harm, who believe in rendering good to our patients and trying to preserve life, that’s exactly what we try to do; so we must stop this heinous, and it is heinous, practice of destroying human life. No matter how good somebody paints the picture of this procedure, they paint a picture that has not been true, that it’s going to bring about all these good cures, but it’s an empty promise. And those who cling to it

have been sold a bill of goods. They have been sold a bald-faced lie. It’s a lie of a promise that has not shown to have any promise really. There are other research methods, other scientific methods, where we can put money, we can put effort to bring about the critical cures that we need to help people get out of their wheelchairs, to help cure cancer, to help cure diabetes, to help cure all these diseases that are absolutely critical for us to cure as a Nation, and we need to put our focus where it should be, and that’s not on killing people. And that’s what embryonic stem cell research does. It kills people. Put it on the things that will save people, things that will cure their disease, hopefully get people out of their wheelchairs and walking, help them to live their lives and be productive in society. I’m all for that, but I am totally against killing embryonic human beings just for the sake of medical experimentation. We must stop it, and I will do everything I can, and I join Congressman SMITH in his efforts and I applaud his efforts over the years.

I just greatly appreciate all that you’ve done, my dear friend. And, CHRIS, I just want to join with you in everything that you do to try to stop this heinous practice of killing human beings through abortion, through embryonic stem cell research, and all the other things that you have so valiantly fought against all these years. I thank you.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my very distinguished colleague Dr. BROWN. Thank you for your kind words, but more importantly, thank you for the contribution you make, especially given your background.

I think Americans need to know that physicians who believe in the sanctity of life, that patients before birth who might be in need of blood transfusions—I mean one of the things I will never forget, Bernard Nathanson, one of the founders of NARAL, an abortionist himself who did thousands of abortions, quit as the head of the center in New York, and he wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine “I have come to the agonizing conclusion that I have presided over 60,000 deaths.” So this innovator, this man who walked in the vanguard of the abortion rights movement, gave it all up. And he did so because, like you, he became a physician who said there are two patients, the unborn child and his or her mother, and both need to be treated with respect. The Hippocratic oath that you cited so eloquently is an admonishment that has fallen by the wayside with some, not all.

The newborn didn’t get that way, a healthy newborn, traversing the birth canal. It had to do with good prenatal care. The mom taking care of herself and being treated obviously well by the family so that she could get her proper rest, all the things that lead to a good delivery, it all occurs prior to birth.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. That’s right.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. So two patients. And that's what led Dr. Nathanson. When he was doing blood transfusions at St. Luke's Hospital and prenatal surgery, and he would say this patient here who deserves respect is getting help he or she needs while in another room of that hospital or clinic, they're getting dismembered or chemically poisoned or killed by some other toxic substance, and they call that abortion and "free choice." It is violence against children and it is injurious to mothers as well.

I just met, Dr. BROWN, with some individuals, a father whose daughter committed suicide in New Jersey some time ago as a direct result of an abortion. She was one of the happiest young women imaginable. Her brother and father came to visit me. She went into a very severe mental, and you probably could speak to that very well, downward slope after she had that abortion. The mental complications are very real. I know we're here to talk about embryonic stem cell research, but it is so closely allied to the dehumanization of unborn life and newly created human life. And as I said at the outset, birth is an event that happens to all of us. It is not the beginning of life. The Flat Earth Society folks might say that's when life begins, but 3D ultrasound, 4D ultrasound, has shattered that myth.

I yield to Dr. BROWN.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. The reason that the pro-abortion people don't want ultrasound is because moms look at that baby and they say, "That's a baby. That's not just a little glob of tissue. It's not some amorphous goop that's there in my womb. It's a baby." And it is. And before she ever knows that she has missed a period, I mean by the time she has missed a period and goes a little bit further, that baby already is developing neurological function. It's already developing a heartbeat. It's a human being.

□ 1800

And that's the thing about embryonic stem cell research goes back to the same thing that I mentioned and what you are talking about, and what we all talk about who are pro-life, that life begins when the sperm cell enters the cell wall of the oocyte, the egg. I call it spermatazoa, that's a medical term for the sperm cell, enters the cell wall of the egg, the oocyte.

It forms a one-cell human being that's genetically different from the mom. It's a separate human being. It has everything it needs except for just a good place to live, to become a human being and be a Member of this House of Representatives, to grow up to become a President of the United States. And it's a human being, nonetheless.

It's a zygote, which needs to have the right, under law, of personhood. And, in fact, in the Roe v. Wade decision, as you know, as all of us who are pro-life know, the Supreme Court justice who

wrote the majority opinion, Justice Blackmun, said in his decision, that if we could ever define the beginning of life at conception—now I say "fertilization" because the word "conception" has become obscured, they want to obscure all this stuff.

But if that could ever be determined that that would vacate Roe v. Wade, we have got to protect these people. A society is going to be judged by other societies about how it cares for the most vulnerable in its society, the poor people, the old people and the very most vulnerable of the young people.

And these embryonic cells that have this big scientific name, like embryonic stem cell research, which sounds kind of lofty, but the bottom line is it kills human beings, separate human beings, and we must stop it and we will do everything we can. God cannot and will not continue to bless America while we are doing this.

We look through history how human beings have been experimented on. We see all the time, we hear complaints, particularly from the other side, even the pro-abortion people on the other side, look aghast of how we treat prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and just putting women's underwear on those folks' heads.

But, on the other hand, they are willing to kill a human being through abortion, through embryonic stem cell research, and it doesn't matter. The thing that really gets me, Congressman SMITH, is they want to do it all the way up to the time that baby totally pops out of the birth canal. In fact, that's what the Freedom of Choice Act is all about. It should be called the Freedom to Kill Babies Act, not the Freedom of Choice Act.

In fact, let me just mention that too as we see that partial-birth abortion, late-term abortions are being promoted by this administration by many in this House. The only medical reason that procedure was ever developed is to guarantee a dead baby by the abortionists. There is no other medical reason, no other medical reason than to guarantee a dead baby.

The abortionists were faced with a problem. They were aborting babies and winding up with a live fetus. Now, "fetus" in Latin means "baby." They were winding up with a live baby, and what are they going to do with this? They couldn't have that, so they had to develop those dilatation extraction procedures, partial-birth abortions to guarantee a dead baby.

So I applaud your efforts to try to help bring forth the truth, and that's what you have been doing for years, and I applaud you. And that's why I had to come down here to put in my 2 cents as a medical doctor, to tell the American public that the truth, that there is very little, if any, potential of scientific breakthroughs to treat all these awful diseases, which I want to treat, but there is a light. There is a potential, and it's through other methods that don't kill these babies.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman for his eloquent statement. We have two Members that want to join in. I would just very briefly say, and I would recommend, that those who may be watching this either look at this in the RECORD or Google it.

In the U.S. News & World Report, Dr. Bernadine Healy, from Ohio, who used to be the head of the National Institutes of Health, asks a very probing question and then answers it why embryonic stem cells are obsolete. And as she points out, the breakthroughs have been in the areas of adult stem cells. And as she calls the induced pluripotent stem cells—again, the ones that can be taken right from our skin—she calls that the blockbuster discovery of 2007.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me and appreciate his reference to Dr. Healy. I have her name in my notes as well.

But let me start by saying this. Look, we understand there is a debate in our culture over whose set of principles, whose set of values are going to prevail.

And that is, of course, one of those fundamental principles is respect for human life. It is why I so appreciate the Congressman from New Jersey and his leadership of the Pro-Life Caucus here in Congress, because he has had a steadfast adherence to that fundamental principle that all life is sacred and worthy of protection, that same principle that the Founders of this country understood when they wrote down the words that started this great experiment that we call America. And they said, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

I always tell folks it's interesting to note the order the Founders placed the rights that they chose to mention, life, liberty, pursuit of happiness. You can't pursue your goals and dreams, you can't go after those things that have meaning and significance to you and your family if you don't first have freedom. And you never have true freedom, true liberty, if government doesn't protect your most fundamental right, your right to life.

That's ultimately what this debate is about. When the President the other day issued his executive order, at the press event he talked about the adherence to science and picking science over politics.

I am sure that the chair of the Pro-Life Caucus, the gentleman from New Jersey and our friend from Texas who has joined us, know that the science is on our side. All the positive treatments, all the beneficial things that have happened to individuals and their families who love and care about them, in treating disease, have happened through the adult stem cell research, not the stem cell research that destroys human life.

And so we strongly support the use of science in developing the cures and the treatments that are going to help people. And it's interesting to note the ethical decision is the smart decision, and right now the evidence is all on our side.

The Congressman from New Jersey is exactly right when he talks about Dr. Healy. What's interesting is Dr. Healy and I did a radio show the other night, talked about this, she happens to be a Republican but also ran as a candidate for the United States Senate as a pro-abortion, pro-choice candidate. So she doesn't exactly share our belief on this issue completely, and yet she is willing to look at the science in an objective way and come down on the right side.

Two last things I would finish with here in my remarks, this decision scares me in a couple of ways, the first one is this, the slippery slope argument is real. I mean, once you start down this road there are all kinds of problems that can accompany this that are harmful. My guess is the gentleman from New Jersey has talked about cloning and some of the other things that this can lead to.

I am sure your comments will be appropriate in that area. These are scary things. But, remember, politicians are good at saying one thing and not exactly following through on it. So even though people will tell us they support this, there are safeguards built in, we know it destroys life and we know that there are worse things that can come down the road.

Finally, I would say this, thus far, with this administration, we have seen a couple of pro-life policies overturned, the Mexico City policy with an executive order, and now the stem cell, the embryonic stem cell research policy.

We know, as we now enter the 2010 appropriations cycle, and what's going to happen with taxpayer dollars as we move forward relative to protecting life and the fact that millions of families, millions of Americans don't want their tax dollars used to promote something that they know is wrong. As we move into that debate, the precedent has been set now with these two decisions. We have got a fight on our hands. There are 22 what are commonly called pro-life riders that are part of the appropriation bills that we need to protect.

The one that most people understand and recognize is the Hyde amendment which says we are not going to use your tax dollars to perform the abortion procedure in this country. We are going to protect the use of your tax dollars.

So this idea that we are now moving in a direction that is going to use tax dollars for embryonic stem cell research sets a dangerous precedent. And it's something that we have to watch as we move forward, because, again, the vast majority of families in this country don't want their tax dollars used for this procedure.

So, again, I commend the gentlemen who are with us here tonight, particu-

larly our chairman of the Pro-Life Caucus, Congressman SMITH, for your steadfast adherence to the fundamental principle that life is precious, life is sacred and deserves the protection that the law should offer it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Thank you, Mr. JORDAN, for your leadership. I think the American public would be pleased to know that you headed up an effort with a Member on the Democratic side, HEATH SHULER, and 180 Members signed a letter to the leadership of the House, the Democratic leadership, asking that these pro-life riders—we do not want our funding, our tax dollars being used to facilitate to kill children.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. For just a second, and I appreciate the gentleman bringing that up, we did have a bipartisan press event where we announced 181 Members of Congress, Republican and Democrat, signing a letter to the Speaker of the House, telling the Speaker, don't mess with this language. This protects human beings. This protects taxpayer dollars. This protects what the vast majority of Americans respect.

Don't change these procedures. Don't do what the Obama administration has already done twice, protect these procedures. And if you do mess with it, at least give us the rule so we can have a debate on the floor. At least allow us to play the game, have the debate, the full debate in front of the American people and have the vote.

You can't get 181 Members to sign anything around here. The fact that we got a bipartisan 181 Members is testimony to the work that the Pro-Life Caucus does and to the importance of this fundamental issue.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. OLSON.

Mr. OLSON. I thank the chairman of the Pro-Life Caucus, my good friend from New Jersey, for leading this discussion tonight on this critical issue, and I want to identify myself with the comments of the speakers who preceded me, the chairman, Chairman PENCE, Dr. BROUN and our good friend, Congressman JORDAN, for their impassioned comments in defense of innocent life.

I rise today out of grave concern over President Obama's decision yesterday to lift restrictions on Federal funding for human embryonic stem cell research. His decision is financially overburdensome, scientifically unnecessary and morally offensive.

The President's new executive order opens the door to Federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. Tremendous results have already been found using adult stem cells in the treatment of cancer, diabetes, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and heart disease. Creating more lines of pluripotent stem cells should be our continued focus. It's more versatile. You don't have to deal with the issues of rejection, and it doesn't take an innocent life.

This administration continues a disturbing path of spending taxpayer dollars on programs and policies that are deeply offensive to millions of Americans, placing questionable science ahead of morality. Taxpayers are being asked to support an increasingly bloated Federal Government, and yet the administration is moving research from private funding to take advantage of money from President Obama's economic recovery package for further study of embryonic stem cells.

How does the destruction of human life help our economy recover, how does that create jobs? It doesn't, and this most recent action by the administration is another example of a step too far.

We must not forget the fundamental role of government in our lives, protecting its citizens, particularly the most innocent among us. This administration has not been in office yet for 2 months, and, yet, three times, it has already overturned some basic security rights of our citizens. It has forced men and women who do not want their money spent on morally objectionable scientific research to fund research.

They have removed rules that protect medical providers who declined to perform abortions due to moral and religious reasons. And now they have failed to protect the most innocent among us by opening the door to embryo research and a senseless discarding of American life.

□ 1815

I'd like to make a couple of comments about the importance of ultrasounds for women who are pregnant. These are personal comments.

God has blessed my family. We have two children; a daughter, who's 12, and a son, who's 8. When my wife was pregnant with our daughter, our first child, she had an ultrasound at 13 weeks. We still have that ultrasound. Have it on our refrigerator door.

If you look at that ultrasound, you look at the profile of that young human life, and you look at the profile of my daughter today as a 12-year-old, thriving kid in sixth grade, there is absolutely no difference. Kate was a person then, she's a person now. And we need to protect the innocent life. And ultrasounds made available to women who are pregnant only are common sense.

Again, I thank my colleague from New Jersey for spearheading this important debate, and I yield back the floor. Thank you.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. OLSON, thank you very much, and I appreciate your leadership and your consistency in respecting all human life, including the unborn child. So, thank you for joining us today.

Let me just make a few final comments, Madam Speaker. While President Obama and some Members of Congress still don't get it, the breakthrough in adult stem cell research has not been lost on the mainstream press.

For example, on November 21, 2007, Reuters reported, and I quote, “Two separate teams of researchers announced on Tuesday they had transformed ordinary skin cells into batches of cells that look and act like embryonic stem cells, but without using cloning technology and without making embryos.”

The New York Times reported on the same day, and I quote, “Two teams of scientists reported yesterday that they had turned human skin cells into what appears to be embryonic stem cells without having to make or destroy an embryo—a feat that could quell the ethical debate troubling the field.”

The AP said, “Scientists have created the equivalent of embryonic stem cells from ordinary skin cells, a breakthrough that could someday produce new treatments without the explosive moral questions of embryo cloning.”

Even University of Wisconsin’s Dr. James Thomson, the man who first cultured embryonic stem cells, told the New York Times, and I quote, “Now with the new technique, it will not be long before the stem cell wars are a distant memory. A decade from now, this will just be a funny historical footnote.”

Dr. Thomson told the Detroit Free Press, “While ducking ethical debate wasn’t the goal, it is probably the beginning of the end of the controversy over embryonic stem cells.”

If only that were true because, unfortunately, on Monday our Federal taxpayers’ dollars will be used now to destroy embryos to derive their stem cells, even though they become tumors, if ever put into an individual, would be rejected and, of course, we know that they kill the donor when they are taken.

In Medical News Today, Dr. Thomson said, and I say this again, “Speaking about the latest breakthrough, the induced cells do all the things embryonic cells do. It’s going to completely change the field,” he said. Again, this is the doctor who, in the late 1990s, gave us embryonic stem cells. He is saying induced pluripotent stem cells, those derived from your skin and mine, can be embryo-like, and really is the hope of regenerative medicine.

Ten days ago, more good news. No, I would actually say it is great news on the induced pluripotent stem cell front. Research teams from the United Kingdom and Canada published two papers in the prestigious scientific journal, *Nature*, announcing that they had successfully reprogrammed ordinary skin cells into induced pluripotent skin cells without the use of viruses to transmit the reprogramming genes to the cell. “With their new discovery, which they used a piggyback system, as they called it, they were able to insert DNA where they could alter the genetic makeup of the regular cell before being harmlessly removed.

“According to many scientists, the removal of potentially cancer-causing viruses means that this breakthrough

increases the likelihood that iPS cells will be safe for clinical use in human patients. The lead scientist from Canada, Andras Nagy, was quoted in the Washington Post saying—this is just a week ago—“It’s a leap forward in the safe application of these cells. We expect this to have a massive impact on this field.”

George Daley at Children’s Hospital in Boston said, and I quote, “It is very significant. I think it’s a major step forward in realizing the value of these cells for medical research.”

Many people seem to be getting it, except for Mr. Obama, who clings to the old hype and the hyperbole concerning the efficacy of embryo-destroying stem cells. Science has moved on. It’s about time the politicians caught up.

This breakthrough suggests—remember, it’s just 2 weeks ago, this newest breakthrough—that the momentum has decisively, and I hope irrevocably, swung to noncontroversial stem cell research, like iPS stem cells, and away from embryo-destroying research.

The lead scientist from the UK was quoted in the BBC saying, “It is a step towards the practical use of reprogrammed cells in medicine, perhaps even eliminating the need for human embryos as a source of stem cells.”

Time Magazine reports on the efficacy of the advantage of iPS stem cells saying, “The induced pluripotent stem cell technology is the ultimate manufacturing process for cells. It is now possible for researchers to churn out unlimited quantities of a patient’s stem cells, which can then be turned into any of the cells that the body might need to repair or to replace.”

Madam Speaker, there was an excellent op ed in the Wall Street Journal yesterday, which I read just a few paragraphs from, which I think really highlights and underscores the profound ethical issues we are facing. It was written by Robert George and Eric Cohen. The title, the President Politicizes Stem Cell Research. Taxpayers Have a Right to be Left Out of it.

“Yesterday, President Barack Obama issued an executive order that authorizes expanded Federal funding for research using stem cells produced by destroying human embryos. The announcement was classic Obama—advancing radical policies while seeming calm and moderate, and preaching the gospel of civility while accusing those who disagree with the policies of being ‘divisive’ and even ‘politicizing science.’

“Mr. Obama’s executive order overturned an attempt by President George W. Bush in 2001 to do justice to both the promise of stem cell science and the demands of ethics. The Bush policy was to allow the government to fund research on existing embryonic stem cell lines, where the embryos in question had already been destroyed. But it would not fund or in any which incentivize the ongoing destruction of human embryos.

“For years, this policy was attacked by advocates of embryo-destructive research. Mr. Bush and the ‘religious right’ were depicted as antiscience villains and embryonic stem cells scientists were seen as the beleaguered saviors of the sick. In reality, Mr. Bush’s policy was one of moderation. It did not ban new embryonic-destructive research, and did not fund new embryo-destroying research either;

“Moderate’ Mr. Obama’s policy is not. It will promote a whole new industry of embryo creation and destruction, including the creation of human embryos by cloning for research in which they are destroyed. It forces American taxpayers, including those who see the deliberate taking of human life in the embryonic stage as profoundly unjust, to be complicit in this practice.

“Mr. Obama made a big point in his speech of claiming to bring integrity back to science policy, and his desire to remove the previous administration’s ideological agenda from scientific decision-making. This claim of taking science out of politics is false and misguided on two counts.

“First, the Obama policy is itself blatantly political. It is red meat to his Bush-hating base. It pays no more than lip service to recent scientific breakthroughs,” that I would note parenthetically, I and my colleagues have been talking about tonight, “that makes possible the production of cells that are biologically equivalent to embryonic stem cells without the need to create or kill human embryos.

“Inexplicably—apart from political motivations—Mr. Obama revoked not only the Bush restrictions on embryo-destructive research funding, but also his 2007 executive order that encourages the National Institutes of Health to explore non-embryo-destructive sources of stem cells.

Second, and more fundamentally, the claim about taking politics out of science is, in the deepest sense, anti-Democratic. The question of whether to destroy human embryos for research purposes is not fundamentally a scientific question. It is a moral and civic question about the proper uses, ambitions, and limits of science; it is a question about how we will treat members of the human family at the very dawn of life; our willingness to seek alternative paths to medical progress that respect human dignity.

“For those who believe in the highest ideals of deliberative democracy and those who believe we mistreat the most vulnerable human lives at our own moral peril, Mr. Obama’s claim of taking politics out of science should be lamented, not celebrated.

“In the years ahead, the stem cell debate will surely continue—raising, as it does, big questions about the meaning of human equality at the edges of human life, about the relationship between science and politics, and about how we govern ourselves when it comes to morally charged issues of public policy on which reasonable people happen to disagree.

“We can only hope in the years ahead that scientific creativity will make embryo destruction unnecessary and that, as a society, we will not pave the way to the brave new world with the best medical intentions.”

Madam Speaker, I just conclude by saying that despite all of the new and the extraordinary processes in adult stem cell research and applications, despite these magnificent breakthroughs in induced pluripotent stem cells, a part of adult stem cells, the Obama administration and, I am sad to say, the leadership of this House, remain fixated on killing human embryos for experimentation at taxpayers' expense.

The alternative has continued and will continue to prove itself to be highly efficacious. That is to say, adult stem cells. We don't need to kill human embryos to effectuate cures and to mitigate disease.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HALL of New York (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today through March 16 on account of a death in the family.

Ms. KOSMAS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of attending the shuttle launch in her district.

Mr. BRIGHT (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and March 12 on account of responding to tragedy in district.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURTON of Indiana) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, March 18.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, March 18.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on March 6, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.J. Res. 38. Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2009, and for other purposes.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House also reports that on March 11,

2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1105. Making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam, Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 12, 2009, at 10 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

827. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Boat Fire Miami Beach Marina [Docket No. USCG-2008-0248] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

828. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Vessel EX-YFRT 287, Nantasket Roads, MA [Docket No. USCG-2008-0247] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

829. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Johns Pass, FL [Docket No. USCG 2008-0236] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

830. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; BAYEX 2008 Full Scale Exercise Phase One Operations; Alameda, CA. [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0281] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

831. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; St. Thomas Harbor, Charlotte Amalie, U.S.V.I. [Docket No. USCG-2008-0233] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

832. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Private Wedding Fireworks Display, Gulf of Mexico, Florida. [Docket No. USCG-2008-0237] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

833. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Johns Pass, FL [Docket No.: USCG 2008-0280] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursu-

ant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

834. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Johns Pass, FL [Docket No. USCG 2008-0232] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

835. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Garden City Container Berth 7 and Ocean Terminal Berths 18 and 19, Savannah River, Savannah, GA [USCG-2008-0259] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

836. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; St. Thomas Harbor, Charlotte Amalie, USVI. [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0276] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

837. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Anacostia River, Washington, DC [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0227] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

838. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety zone; Desert Storm Charity Poker Run and Exhibition Run; Lake Havasu, AZ [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0273] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

839. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Unlimited Light Hydroplane Tests, Stan Sayres Pits, Lake Washington, Washington. [Docket No. USCG-2008-0285] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

840. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Corrections; Hatteras Boat Parade and Firework Display, Trent River, New Bern, NC [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0309 (formerly USCG-2008-0046)] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

841. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lake Havasu Grand Prix; Lower Colorado River, Thompson Bay, Lake Havasu City, Arizona [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0304] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

842. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Belleair Bridge, FL [Docket No.: USCG 2008-0303] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.