Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation requiring the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) study the issue of introduced legislation requiring the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) study the issue of cellular phones. Mr. Speaker, when I first raised the issue of cellular phones, the House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee briefed I chaired in 1993, there were roughly 15 million people using such phones—today there are over 70 million users of wireless phones. In addition, the FDA, which coordinates cellular phones and health issues, has previously indicated that a significant research effort over a sustained period of time is needed to provide the greater body of scientific information that scientists and regulators will need to more adequately assess any potential health risks. It is my belief that because wireless phone companies receive their licenses to operate from the Federal Government, that the government has a responsibility to step up its efforts to address this issue. Indeed, having helped create these phones, I believe that whether these wireless devices pose a health risk are addressed.

This legislation authorizes $25 million over a 5-year period for the FDA to analyze health risks associated from radiofrequency emissions from wireless phones. I believe it is important that we continue to pursue the questions of total Federal research funds, an authorization that is specifically dedicated to scientifically assess wireless phone health risks.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation requiring the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) study the issue of cellular phones and health risks associated with wireless phones. This legislation builds upon a provision that I offered to legislation pending in the House Commerce Committee during the previous Congress. That underlying legislation ultimately was not enacted in the previous Congress and today I offer the wireless health study amendment as a standalone piece of legislation, entitled the “Wireless Phone Health Risk Assessment Act of 2000.”

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