

Israel currently has access to Patriot and Arrow missile defense technologies, great systems which are critical for defending against longer-range missiles, but poorly suited to defend Israeli territory from the types of rockets and missiles currently being fired by Hezbollah.

It is for this reason that I support the U.S. Missile Defense Agency efforts—in cooperation with the Israeli Missile Defense Organization—to develop a system for short-range missile defense. Aimed at projectiles with a range of less than 200 kilometers, this system would provide Israel with another way to defend itself, rather than having to rely exclusively on offensive action. It is propitious that the Defense Appropriations Committee is marking up its bill this week. For more than a year, I have worked with Senators STEVENS and INOUE to support the short-range missile defense program. Under their leadership, I believe that the committee will provide the investment necessary to accelerate fielding of the system. Unfortunately, the need for a redoubled effort is now clearer than ever.

We still do not know how the current crisis is going to end. What we can and should say, however, is that Israel has the full support of this body in its ongoing efforts to fight terrorists, protect its citizens, and create the circumstances for peaceful coexistence with Lebanon, and all of its neighbors.

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—H.R. 5672

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 5672 be star printed.

The ACTING PRESIDING pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDING pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

FETUS FARMING PROHIBITION ACT OF 2006

ALTERNATIVE PLURIPOTENT STEM CELL THERAPIES ENHANCEMENT ACT

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

hour of 12:30 having arrived, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 3504, S. 2754, and H.R. 810, en bloc, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 810) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

A bill (S. 3504) to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit the solicitation or acceptance of tissue from fetuses gestated for research purposes, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2754) to derive human pluripotent stem cell lines using techniques that do not knowingly harm embryos.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may use this hourglass during the course of the debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, it is difficult to characterize the importance of the debate which the Senate is now beginning because the most fundamental aspect of human life is our health. Without our health, there is nothing we can do. Medical research has performed wonders, and stem cells, which came upon the scene in November of 1998, have the most remarkable potential of any scientific discovery ever made with respect to human health. These stem cells have the capacity to regenerate disease cells in the human body and have the capacity to cure maladies of all sorts, including cancer, heart disease, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, spinal cord—the long litany of maladies which confront mankind.

The stem cell debate began with the hearings conducted by the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, which I chair and on which Senator TOM HARKIN is ranking member. We began those hearings within days of the November 1998 announcement and have had some 18 hearings on stem cells to explore all ramifications of the potential of stem cells.

There is now an avalanche of evidence that the use of stem cells in scientific research has boundless potential. The state of the law is that federal funding may only be used for a limited number of obsolete stem cell lines.

The bill which is the fundamental issue before the Senate today is H.R. 810, which Senator HARKIN and I introduced as a Senate bill with some 42 cosponsors, which would allow research on embryonic stem cells.

There are two other bills at issue. One is S. 2754 which Senator SANTORUM and I have introduced which relates to long-range research not involving the embryos, but it is totally separate and distinct from H.R. 810 in that it does not have the potential that the embryonic stem cells have and it is long range.

The third bill is S. 3504 which relates to fetus farming prohibition, and I believe there will be little controversy about this bill. The bill would deal with two unethical activities—the so-

licitation or acceptance of human fetal tissue knowing that a pregnancy was deliberately initiated to provide such tissue and the solicitation or acceptance of tissues or cells from a human embryo or fetus that was gestated in the uterus of a nonhuman animal. I believe there will be no contest about that.

I expect relatively little contest about S. 2754, which does not in any way relate to the importance of research on embryonic stem cells.

The embryonic stem cells are used from many embryos which have been created for in vitro fertilization. Customarily, a dozen or so are created, maybe three or four are used, and the others are then frozen and ultimately will be discarded. There are some 400,000 of those embryos which are frozen today, and the likelihood of their being used is nil.

Senator HARKIN and I introduced legislation to provide for Federal funding to encourage adoption of these embryos. If they could be used to create human life, I would not in the remotest way contend that they ought to be used for scientific research. But the fact is that they will either be used for scientific research or thrown away.

When the issue of adoption was raised, as I say, we took the lead in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee in the year 2002 and appropriated \$1 million and since then have appropriated more in succeeding years.

As of May 31, 2006, the Snow Flake Organization, one of the Department of Health and Human Services' embryonic adoption grantees, had a news conference announcing that there had been 100 births since 1997. As of May 31, 2006, the National Embryo Donation Center had a total of 28 deliveries or ongoing pregnancies. Out of the 400,000, even with Federal funding available to encourage adoption, the number is 128, which makes it conclusive that these 400,000 embryos will either be used for scientific research or thrown away.

The bill which Senator HARKIN and I have introduced is very carefully structured to be sure that it satisfies the strictest ethical scrutiny.

This is the essence of the bill: first, that the stem cells were originally created for fertility treatment purposes; second, are in excess of the clinical need; third, the individual seeking fertility treatments for whom the embryos were created has determined that the embryos will not be implanted in a woman; fourth, they will be otherwise discarded; and fifth, the individual for whom embryos were created has provided written consent for embryo adoption.

This bill does not allow Federal funds to be used for the derogation of stem cell lines, a step in the process where the embryo is destroyed—the lines are created and the embryos are destroyed before they are subjected to research which is funded by the Federal Government under the bill which Senator HARKIN and I are promoting.