Knowing that stem cells may have the power to save and improve lives, we cannot deny researchers the tools they need to fully realize the potential of stem cells. If we fail to seize promising new research opportunities, we will fail millions of Americans and their families and people all over the world.

Early last month, President Bush announced he would limit Government funding for research on stem cell lines that already existed at the time of his announcement. This was obviously a political compromise. I am pleased that the President left the door open for Federal funding of stem cell research in some capacity, but I am very concerned that he has not opened the door far enough to allow scientists to fully realize the life-saving potential of stem cells.

Last week, Secretary Thompson announced that the 25 of the 64 stem cell lines the National Institutes of Health listed as falling under the President's guidelines are fully developed. We still do not know whether the remaining 40 stem cell lines would be useful to science. What we do know about the 25 viable stem cell lines that fall under the President's guidelines is very troubling. Why? Most, if not all, of the existing stem cell lines have been mixed with mouse cells. As a result, these cells could transfer deadly animal viruses to people, human beings.

It is also unclear whether these cells will be suitable for transplanting into people. Just last week, Dr. Douglas Melton, a professor of molecular and cellular biology at Harvard, testified that cells derived from mice "have proven unreliable over time for research, either dying out or growing into diseased forms."

Even though scientists are working on ways to grow embryonic cell lines without using mouse cells, they will not be eligible for Federal research money because they will be created after President Bush's arbitrary August 12 deadline. Last week the administration confirmed it would not reconsider this deadline, even if it were later discovered that none of these cell lines was suitable for long-term research.

If we fail to fund research for the new stem lines that are created without mouse cells, stem cell researchers will still conduct research on stem cell lines that fall outside his guidelines. This research is going to go forward. Shouldn't it go forward under the greatest scientific umbrella in the history of the Nation? As we continue to evaluate the President's funding guidelines, we need to keep in mind that millions of Americans who suffer from devastating illnesses do not have the luxury of time—Steve Rigazio as an example. We cannot continue to dangle the hope of cure or the promise of scientific breakthrough before these patients and their families without adequately supporting research to allow scientists to achieve these very important discoveries.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The President pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. Hollings. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from South Carolina, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1533

Mr. HOLLINGS. I ask unanimous consent to report the amendment numbered 1533.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2500) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2500, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2500) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from South Carolina, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, is recognized.

MR. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask the clerk to report it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Carolina [Mr. Hollings], for himself and Mr. Gregg, proposes an amendment numbered 1533.

Mr. Hollings. I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.