June 26, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ANNOUNCING THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE LANDS TITLE REPORT COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Oxley) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. Oxley. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to authority granted by section 501(b)(1)(c) of Public Law 106–569, I am announcing my appointment of the following four individuals to the Lands Title Report Commission, established by section 501(a) of that Act: Mr. Chester Carl of Window Rock, Arizona; Mr. Louie Sheridan of Lincoln, Nebraska; Mr. Bob Gauthier of Pablo, Montana; and Mr. Francis X. Carroll of Buffalo, New York.

These individuals were chosen for this appointment due to their demonstrated experience in and knowledge of land title matters relating to Indian trust lands. The Commission, and their appointment, will expire 1 year after the Commission’s initial meeting.

The Commission is responsible for analyzing the system of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for maintaining land ownership records and title documents and issuing certified title status reports relating to Indian trust lands and, pursuant to such analysis, determining how best to improve or replace the system. The Commission is then required to report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate on its findings.

The other eight members of the Commission are appointed by the Senate and the President.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate these fine individuals on their appointments, and look forward to their report.

ASKING CONGRESS TO HELP STOP JUVENILE DIABETES IN ITS TRACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Sandlin) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. Sandlin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the Congress to help a young friend of mine, Anna Kate Gunn. I am also asking the Congress to help over 1 million other young children in this country suffer from the disease of juvenile diabetes.

I hold in my hand a book of children from all over this country, all races, all creeds, all colors, all languages, faces of hope, faces that are looking to us to try to do the right thing, faces of other children with juvenile diabetes. Our country is too strong, it is too great, it is too powerful, and it is too rich not to help our children by stopping juvenile diabetes in its tracks right now.

Mr. Speaker, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation just concluded its 2001 Children’s Congress here in Washington. This year, 200 delegates representing all 50 States gathered to meet with policymakers to ask our support as we make decisions about legislation that will impact funding for diabetes research. Diabetes is a chronic debilitating disease that affects every organ system in the body. Type 1 diabetes or juvenile diabetes lasts a lifetime.

Those who are stricken with this disease must take insulin just to live. However, insulin does not cure diabetes or prevent the possibility of its eventual devastating affects. Those affects include kidney failure, blindness, nerve damage, amputation, heart attack, stroke.

More than 1 million Americans have juvenile diabetes. A new case of juvenile diabetes is diagnosed every single hour in this country. Diabetes shortens the life expectancy of these children by 15 years. It is the single most costly chronic disease. It totals more than $105 billion of annual health care spending in the United States of America.

Anna Kate Gunn, my young friend from Texas, came by the office today with her parents and her grandfather, Gene Stallings, a well-known sports hero, former coach of the Texas Cowboys, of Texas A&M, of Alabama, of St. Louis.

Anna Kate was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes when she was 11 months old. Now, at age 3, she endures three insulin injections a day and 8 to 10 finger pricks a day to check her blood sugar level. Without a cure for juvenile diabetes, Anna Kate will have to live with these injections, with these finger pricks for the rest of her life.

One of the funding decisions we make in Congress will be a part that involves stem cell research, a critical part of research in this area. This breakthrough research holds great promise in the cure and treatment of many diseases afflicting Americans and many disabilities including juvenile diabetes.

There are three sources of stem cells, embryonic, fetal, and adult stem cells. Each of these types of cells is very different from the others and all are needed to advance research.

Specifically, embryonic stem cell research offers hope to the more than 1 million American children like Anna Kate whose diabetes is diagnosed every single hour. These cells have the potential to become insulin producing cells because of their unique potential to differentiate into any human type of cell. It is necessary for researchers to understand how embryonic stem cells work before they can get the full affect of the adult stem cell research.

Federal support for embryonic stem cell research is essential to the work...
that scientists are doing to create therapies for a range of serious and currently intractable diseases. By impeding embryonic stem cell research, we risk unnecessary delay for millions of patients, millions of children across this country who may die or endure needless suffering while the effectiveness of adult stem cells is evaluated.

Certainly, there are legitimate ethical concerns and issues raised by this research. However, it is important to understand that the cells being used in this research were destined to be discarded. The cells used are destined to be discarded. They are destined to be discarded. Under these circumstances, it would be tragic to waste this opportunity to pursue the work that could potentially alleviate human suffering especially in our children.

For the past 35 years, many of the common human virus vaccines have been produced in cells derived from the human fetus to the benefit of tens of millions of Americans. Clearly, there is a precedent for the use of fetal tissue that would otherwise be discarded. This is not a political issue. It is an issue of human responsibility. It is an issue of human decency. It is an issue of doing what is right by our children in this country.

Furthermore, the American public overwhelmingly supports this research. In a poll conducted earlier this year, 65 percent of those surveyed said they support Federal funding stem cell research. It is the right thing to do.

Stem cell research is still in the early stages. In order to receive the full benefits of the research, there must be additional study. Federal funding of this research ensures public oversight and accountability among researchers receiving Federal grants. These researchers will be required to adhere to strict guidelines that do not govern private research. Further, Federal funding will allow many scientists to expand the research in this critical area, thus hastening the discovery of therapies.

Mr. Speaker, we fund many worthwhile projects in the United States Congress. Surely, we can advance funds to save the lives of our children in this country.

Putting an end to public support of this research would have a devastating effect on the future of research in numerous diseases. Congress and the administration should allow this important research to continue, if not for the sake of science, for the sake of Anna Kate and children all across this country that are similarly situated.

Please remember those faces looking at us, faces looking at us in trust and in hope. We cannot let them down. Mr. Speaker, let us do the right thing by America’s children.

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