We must allow federal funding for life-saving embryonic stem cell research.

Mr. McDermott asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. McDermott. Mr. Speaker, throughout time people have resisted scientific advancement. History is replete with the examples of fundamentalist religious leaders issuing scientific decisions based on absolutely no evidence.

It is deja vu all over again today with this current administration as they inject politics into the single most promising medical research of the century.

The Bush administration is unfortunately not committed to research that would hasten medical discoveries, but rather, to hold science hostage to the Catholic vote.

Carl Rove, the President’s chief political adviser, is concerned about the views of the Catholic Church because the Catholic voters are seen as a swing vote in the elections. This administration has degraded medical research and the tremendous potential of embryonic stem cell research into an anti-abortion vote.

The White House is currently reviewing the matter. In other words, they are looking at the polls. “A responsible leader;” and this is a quote, “is someone who makes decisions based upon principles, not based upon polls or focus groups.” The New York Times reminds us that President Bush said those words a few days before Election Day. Perhaps he needs to be reminded.

Without a microscope, one cannot even see what this debate is all about. The center of the controversy is a microscopic cluster of cells stored in test tubes like this one. It is smaller than the period at the end of a sentence.

When Orrin Hatch says he can tell the difference between cells in the test tube and those in a woman’s body, then we know that this is a nonsense argument. We should continue this research.

GUTKNECHT AMENDMENT ALLOWS ACCESS TO REASONABLY-PRICED DRUGS FOR SENIORS

Mr. Gutknecht asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. Gutknecht. Mr. Speaker, later today we are going to have a very heated debate about a simple amendment that I am going to offer to make it clear what the Congress intended last year in terms of prescription drugs and allowing seniors and other Americans access to drugs from other places.

Much of the debate is going to revolve around this chart and the issue of safety. I just want to talk about a couple of these items here. For Glucophage, a commonly-prescribed drug for diabetes, in the United States the average price is $30.12 for a 30-day supply. That same drug made in the same place, however, can be purchased for $4.11.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of people are going to say, what about safety? What about safety? Well, there is not a single piece of evidence, not one piece of evidence, that anyone has been injured by bringing legal drugs back into the United States where they have a prescription. That is a fact.

It is also a fact that 4.4 percent of the fruit and produce that comes into this country every day is tainted with serious pathogens.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to have a chance to vote on this amendment. We are going to have to decide whether we are going to defend and explain this chart, and say that Americans should not have the access to legal drugs from legal countries around the world.

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH DESTROYS LIFE

Mr. DeLay asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. DeLay. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of stem cell research, research that is ethical and which has been proven effective. The stem cell research I am referring to is derived from adults, umbilical cord blood, and placental blood, to name just a few sources. I, however, am not talking about stem cell research extracted from human embryos.

We can and are saving lives with stem cells gathered from adults even...