

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 180

Recognizing the sequencing of the human genome as one of the most significant scientific accomplishments of the past 100 years and expressing support for the designation of April 25, 2013, as “DNA Day”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. SPEIER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the sequencing of the human genome as one of the most significant scientific accomplishments of the past 100 years and expressing support for the designation of April 25, 2013, as “DNA Day”.

Whereas April 25, 2013, is the 60th anniversary of the publication of the description of the double-helical structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in the scientific journal *Nature* by James D. Watson and Francis H.C. Crick, which is considered by many to be one of the most significant scientific discoveries of the 20th century;

Whereas their discovery launched a field of inquiry that explained how DNA encoded biological information and how this information is duplicated and passed from generation

to generation, forming the stream of life that connects us all to our ancestors and to our descendants;

Whereas this field of inquiry in turn was crucial to the founding and continued growth of the field of biotechnology and of genomics, which have led to historic scientific advances for the world, advances in which the people of the United States have played a leading role and from which they have realized significant benefits;

Whereas from 1990 to 2003, genomic research centers in the United States and around the world worked together on the Human Genome Project, which elucidated the sequence of the human genome, the genetic blueprint of the human body, and made that data available publicly;

Whereas April 14, 2013, marked the 10th anniversary of the Human Genome Project's completion;

Whereas the sequencing of the human genome has already fostered research discoveries that have led to advances in medicine, and as genome sequencing becomes faster and less expensive, will enable researchers to further improve human health and medical care;

Whereas the cost and time needed to sequence a human genome has decreased rapidly, from \$1,000,000,000 and 6 to 8 years during the Human Genome Project to less than \$5,000 and 2 to 3 days in 2013;

Whereas in 1990, when the Human Genome Project began, there were only 4 FDA-approved drugs with pharmacogenomic information on their labels, and then by 2013, this number had increased to over 100;

Whereas a study conducted by the Battelle Institute found that for every dollar of United States Federal investment

in the Human Genome Project, there was \$141 in economic activity generated in return;

Whereas the National Human Genome Research Institute of the National Institutes of Health has provided an exemplary model for social responsibility in scientific research, by devoting significant resources and leadership to studying the ethical, legal, and social implications of genomics research;

Whereas genomic medicine will be enhanced by increasing the public's awareness and understanding of genomics; and

Whereas April 25, 2013, is an appropriate day to designate as “DNA Day” in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the publication describing the structure of DNA on April 25, 1953: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the sequencing of the human ge-
3 nome as one of the most significant scientific accom-
4 plishments of the past 100 years;

5 (2) honors the 60th anniversary of the out-
6 standing accomplishment of describing the structure
7 of DNA and the 10th anniversary of completing the
8 Human Genome Project;

9 (3) supports the designation of “DNA Day”;
10 and

11 (4) encourages schools, museums, cultural orga-
12 nizations, and other educational institutions in the
13 United States to recognize “DNA Day” with appro-

- 1 appropriate programs and activities centered on human
- 2 genomics.

