To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit human-animal chimeras.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 22, 2016

Mr. Smith of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. Babin, Mr. Bilirakis, Mrs. Black, Mr. Boustany, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Fortenberry, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Hartzler, Mr. Hensarling, Mr. Huelskamp, Mr. Huizenga of Michigan, Mr. Luetkemeyer, Mr. Pearce, Mr. Pitts, Mr. Russell, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Loudermilk, and Mr. Mullin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit human-animal chimeras.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Human-Animal Chimera Prohibition Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON HUMAN-ANIMAL CHIMERAS.

Part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 51 the following:
CHAPTER 52—HUMAN-ANIMAL CHIMERAS

Sec.
1131. Definitions.
1132. Prohibition on human-animal chimeras.

§ 1131. Definitions

In this chapter the following definitions apply:

(1) HUMAN-ANIMAL CHIMERA.—The term ‘human-animal chimera’ means—

(A) a human embryo into which a nonhuman cell or cells (or the component parts thereof) have been introduced to render the embryo’s membership in the species Homo sapiens uncertain;

(B) a chimera human/animal embryo produced by fertilizing a human egg with nonhuman sperm;

(C) a chimera human/animal embryo produced by fertilizing a nonhuman egg with human sperm;

(D) an embryo produced by introducing a nonhuman nucleus into a human egg;

(E) an embryo produced by introducing a human nucleus into a nonhuman egg;

(F) an embryo containing at least haploid sets of chromosomes from both a human and a nonhuman life form;
“(G) a nonhuman life form engineered such that human gametes develop within the body of a nonhuman life form; or

“(H) a nonhuman life form engineered such that it contains a human brain or a brain derived wholly or predominantly from human neural tissues.

“(2) HUMAN EMBRYO.—The term ‘human embryo’ means an organism of the species Homo sapiens during the earliest stages of development, from 1 cell up to 8 weeks.

§1132. Prohibition on human-animal chimeras

“(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly, in or otherwise affecting interstate commerce—

“(1) create or attempt to create a human-animal chimera;

“(2) transfer or attempt to transfer a human embryo into a nonhuman womb;

“(3) transfer or attempt to transfer a nonhuman embryo into a human womb; or

“(4) transport or receive for any purpose a human-animal chimera.

“(b) PENALTIES.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—Whoever violates subsection (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

“(2) CIVIL PENALTY.—Whoever violates subsection (a) and derives pecuniary gain from such violation shall be subject to a civil fine of the greater of $1,000,000 and an amount equal to the amount of the gross gain multiplied by 2.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section does not prohibit research involving the use of transgenic animal models containing human genes or xenotransplantation of human organs, tissues, or cells into recipient animals, if such activities are not prohibited under subsection (a).”.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

The table of chapters for part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 51 the following:

“52. Human-animal chimeras .......................................................... 1131.”. 