

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1600. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive in the case of multiemployer plans the section 415 limit on benefits to the participant's average compensation for his high 3 years; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GREGG, Mr. NICKLES, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 1601. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology for purposes of human cloning; read the first time.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1602. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit any attempt to clone a human being using somatic cell nuclear transfer and to prohibit the use of Federal funds for such purposes, to provide for further review of the ethical and scientific issues associated with the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer in human beings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. ROBB):

S. Res. 172. A resolution congratulating President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 50 years of independence; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 1597. A bill to establish food safety research, education, and extension as priorities of the Department of Agriculture, to require the use of a designated team within the Department of Agriculture to enable the Department and other Federal agencies to rapidly respond to food safety emergencies, and to improve food safety through the development and commercialization of food safety technology; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

THE SAFE FOOD ACTION PLAN ACT

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I am pleased to be introducing companion legislation to a bill prepared by Congresswoman DEBBIE STABENOW entitled the Safe Food Action Plan Act.

The bill adds food safety as a new statutory priority in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research, education and extension programs. This should mean that more of the nearly \$1.5 billion spent through existing grant and research programs, including the Fund for Rural America, will be focused directly on food safety. That's the kind of awareness that we need, to prevent and combat food supply contamination.

The bill also creates a Federal Emergency Management Agency-like ap-

proach to dealing with food safety crises. Currently, there are at least 3 agencies within the Department of Agriculture that have some responsibility for preventing and controlling outbreaks of food borne disease, not to mention the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control. This bill establishes a Food Safety Rapid Response Team across internal division boundaries within USDA that will coordinate with other Federal agencies. If outbreaks do occur, the American people must be confident that the government is prepared to efficiently handle and limit such public health threats.

This legislation was developed by Congresswoman STABENOW over several months with input from all parts of the food production and consumption chain and the Department of Agriculture. It is an excellent complement to the Administration's enforcement enhancement proposal. The Safe Food Action Plan is a sensible and cost-effective way to make the Federal government responsive and responsible.

I hope the Agriculture Committee will seek to move this legislation as quickly as possible, and I urge my colleagues to consider cosponsoring this important measure.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GREGG, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. GRAMS and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 1599. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology for purposes of human cloning; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION ACT OF 1998

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today, I rise to announce that we are introducing a measure that places an outright ban on the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology for human cloning purposes. Recent reports that a Chicago-based scientist is prepared to move forward with human cloning experimentation forces us to engage in an immediate debate on how far out on the moral cliff we are willing to let science proceed before we as a Nation insist on some meaningful constraints. When the announcement was made last month that these efforts to raise funds for human cloning were going forward, we stated that we would move on an emergency basis to deal with this and to express, through congressional action, a strong sense that this is unacceptable and we must prohibit it. I am pleased to be joined by the distinguished cosponsors, Senators FRIST, GREGG, LOTT, HUTCHISON, SHELBY, NICKLES, LUGAR, ABRAHAM, GRAMS, and HAGEL.

I believe we no longer have the luxury of waiting around for this morally reprehensible act to occur in the United States. Less than a year ago, the cloning of Dolly, the now famous sheep, provoked a debate of unprece-

ded proportions, a debate which to this day generates polar feelings of fascination and fear. We have in this body adopted prohibition on the use of Federal funds for research on or experimentation in human cloning. The time has come for us to make that a flat prohibition and to put our country in league with other civilized countries, which are saying human cloning is not acceptable and will not go forward.

Daily news accounts about the successful cloning of animals and stories of organizations and individuals pursuing human cloning have kept the debate alive. The American public is asking if similar techniques can be used to clone humans, and they are concerned whether something that was once thought only to be science fiction is now closer to becoming a reality.

Those opposing a prohibition on human cloning suggest that we cannot put the genie back in the bottle, and that we cannot stop progress. I suggest that in this case our technological capability may be outrunning our moral sense.

The ethical implications of human cloning are staggering. We should never create human life for spare parts, as a replacement for a child who has died, or for other unnatural and selfish purposes.

How many embryos or babies would we tolerate being created with abnormalities before we would perfect human cloning? It took Scottish scientists over 276 tries before they created Dolly, and we still do not even know if Dolly is the perfect sheep. What would have happened had those 276 been badly deformed potential humans? For humans, these results are entirely unacceptable. Dr. Ian Wilmut, the leading Scottish scientist who created Dolly, himself has stated that he can see no scenario under which it would be ethical to clone human life. I believe he is right.

Moreover, in September of 1994, a federal Human Embryo Research Panel noted that "allowing society to create genetically identical persons would devalue human life by undermining the individuality of human beings."

Further, the panel concluded that "there are broad moral concerns about the deliberate duplication of an individual genome. The notion of cloning an existing human being or of making carbon copies of an existing embryo appears repugnant to members of the public. Many members of the panel share this view and see no justification for federal funding of such research."

And I would emphatically argue that those statements apply to private sector research as well.

It is also important to note that this legislation is narrowly drafted, and its sole objective is to ban the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer for human cloning purposes. We worked overtime to ensure that this language was specific so that it would only ban this technique which was used to create Dolly.