

a superpower in medical science, advocating ethical standards for others beyond our shores; or are we, as a Nation, going to retreat behind unrealistic, unenforceable barricades, and leave advancement in the science of this emerging field to the rest of the world?

The facts are that an overwhelming amount of evidence exists that indicates that stem cell research holds enormous potential for treatment, and ultimately cures, for many diseases such as Parkinson's disease, cancer, ALS, Alzheimer's, heart disease, spinal chord injuries, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, arthritis, and diabetes.

Constantly, my Senate staff and I meet and hear from many Virginians who suffer from these and other diseases. And, many of these same individuals succumb to their disease, as no cure has yet been found for their illness. Embryonic stem cell research offers a real opportunity to help save lives in the future.

After thoughtful consideration, I came to the conclusion that the Federal Government, subject to restrictions, should fund embryonic stem cell research so that we remain a superpower in medical science. I joined with several of my colleagues in the Senate in writing to President Bush expressing my support for Federal funding of embryonic stem cell research prior to the President's August 9th announcement. I ask unanimous consent that the letter to President Bush be printed in RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

The President,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We strongly urge you to continue the last Administration's policy of using Federal funds for research on human stem cells after these cells have been derived from embryos. In addition, we strongly urge you to support legislation which would remove the existing ban on the use of Federal funds to derive stem cells from embryos.

On the issue of stem cell research, we think our colleague, Senator Gordon Smith, went to the heart of the matter when he pointed out the difference between an embryo in a petri dish, which would not produce human life, as opposed to an embryo in the womb of a woman where further development would produce life.

The essential consideration is that there are many excess embryos created for the purpose of in vitro fertilization. The only issue is whether these embryo will be discarded or used for stem cell research to save lives. Stem cell research has demonstrated a remarkable capacity of these cells to transform into any type of cell in the human body. Stem cells could be transplanted to any part of the body to replace tissue that has been damaged by disease, injury or aging. If scientists are correct, stem cells could be used to treat and cure a multitude of maladies such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes, ALS, heart disease, spinal cord injury, all types of cancers, burns, stroke, macular degeneration, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, autoimmune diseases, hepatitis and arthritis.

Current law prohibits Federal funding to create human embryos for research purposes through cloning, or through any other means. We do not object to these important prohibitions. However, creating embryos for research purposes is entirely different from using spare embryos left-over from infertility treatments. These spare embryos are now destined to be thrown away. Rather than discarding them, we support using these embryos in medical research to treat and cure disease.

Sincerely,
Arleen Specter, Strom Thurmond, Lincoln D. Chafee, Olympia J. Snowe, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Gordon Smith, Susan Collins, Ted Stevens, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Orrin Hatch, and Dick Lugar.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 14, 1991 in Eugene, OR. Police arrested Pamela Joanne Richardson, 28, and Michael James Hughes, 21, for allegedly attacking a gay man outside a bar while using offensive language about his sexual orientation.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, September 4, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,761,532,655,812.62, five trillion, seven hundred sixty-one billion, five hundred thirty-two million, six hundred fifty-five thousand, eight hundred twelve dollars and sixty-two cents.

Five years ago, September 4, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,228,998,407,724.89, five trillion, two hundred twenty-eight billion, nine hundred ninety-eight million, four hundred seven thousand, seven hundred twenty-four dollars and eighty-nine cents.

Ten years ago, September 4, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,617,415,000,000, three trillion, six hundred seventeen billion, four hundred fifteen million.

Fifteen years ago, September 4, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,113,006,000,000, two trillion, one hundred thirteen billion, six million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$3,648,526,655,812.62, three trillion, six hundred forty-eight billion, five hundred twenty-six million, six

hundred fifty-five thousand, eight hundred twelve dollars and sixty-two cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL KIDS VOTING WEEK

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Kids Voting USA and its efforts to educate our children about civic democracy and the importance of being an informed voter.

The program began in 1988 with three Arizona businessmen on a fishing trip to Costa Rica. They learned that voter turnout in that country was routinely about 80 percent. This high turnout was attributed to a tradition of children accompanying their parents to the polls. The men observed first-hand the success Costa Rica had achieved by instilling in children at an early age the importance of active participation and voting.

The three Arizona businessmen took this idea back to the United States and founded Kids Voting USA. Today, this nonprofit, nonpartisan organization reaches 5 million students in 39 States, and includes 200,000 teachers, and 20,000 voter precincts.

With voter turnout declining each year, Kids Voting USA recognizes the need to educate our youth and instill in them the responsibility to be active, informed citizens and voters. By teaching the skills for democratic living year-round, students receive a civics education and participate in local and national elections in communities across the country. Kids Voting USA enables students to visit official polls on election day, accompanied by a parent or guardian, to cast a ballot that replicates the official ballot. Although not a part of the official results, the students' votes are registered at schools and by the media.

This year, National Kids Voting Week is September 24-28. It is a week when Kids Voting communities across the country celebrate this vibrant and important program. I would like to recognize Kids Voting USA and all its has done to promote the future of democracy by engaging young people, schools and communities in the election process.●

SAS INSTITUTE INC. CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I am proud to honor SAS Institute Inc. as it celebrates 25 years as a leading technology company. SAS is the world's largest privately held software company. The roots of SAS' software stem from a United States Department of Agriculture grant to a group of universities in need of a way to analyze their vast amounts of agriculture data. The group developed the "Statistical Analysis System", giving SAS both its name and its corporate beginnings.

Headquartered in Cary, NC, SAS has made significant contributions to communities throughout North Carolina.