

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of weeks, I have heard from all sides of this very impassioned debate regarding the issue of stem cell research. There are many arguments on both sides which resonate with compassionate people, and I have taken a great deal of time and reflection to reach my current position in favor of stem cell research as provided under H.R. 810.

As a Member of Congress, I have been a very consistent supporter of the value of human life in all of its stages. I have had personal experiences with diseases that hold the greatest hope of being treated with the help of research on stem cells including diabetes and Parkinson's disease, and I believe that our respect for human life should compel us to strive to treat diseases which are currently untreatable.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is important to closely consider what is in this bill and what is not in this bill. This bill would allow researchers to apply for federal grant money to perform research on tissue which would otherwise be discarded as medical waste. I have heard some of my colleagues say that they are against the creation of embryos for the purpose of scientific research, and I agree. This bill would not allow research on any lines of stem cells unless they had been created for reproductive purposes and if the people involved grant their consent. I do not believe that this bill would encourage the creation of more embryos because the bill would not allow funding to be used if the donating parties had received any compensation for the donation of tissue for research.

It is important that we recognize that stem cell research is a reality in our time, and what is uncertain are the parameters through which it will be pursued. I would prefer that this type of research is done at home rather than abroad where it can be pursued with the oversight of the United States Congress and where we can be certain of the moral restraint of American values.

When the President issued his guidelines for acceptable research on stem cells in August 2001, he acknowledged that federal funding could be appropriate, provided that it was done so in a moral way. In his judgment, a moral way included research with the informed consent of the donors involving excess embryos created solely for reproductive purposes; and that it was done without any financial inducements to the donors.

I believe that H.R. 810 respects human life in the way that we should by allowing scientists to use human tissue which would otherwise be discarded as medical waste, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOME-
OWNERSHIP MONTH AND THE IM-
PORTANCE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP
IN THE UNITED STATES**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate homeown-

ship in America. Recently, the President designated June as National Homeownership Month as he has done for the past three years. To complement this designation, I have introduced a resolution to recognize National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the House of Representatives:

- (1) fully supports the goals and ideals of National Homeownership Month; and
- (2) recognizes the importance of homeownership in building strong communities and families.

IMPORTANCE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP IN AMERICA

For generations, the goal of owning a home has been the bedrock of our economy and a fundamental part of the American Dream. Over the last three years, as we have faced the challenges of war and economic uncertainty, the housing and refinance markets have helped to keep our economy moving. Nationally, housing generates more than 22 percent of the Gross Domestic Product and accounts for nearly 40 cents of every dollar spent. America's housing markets are the envy of the world. We enjoy the lowest interest rates and the highest homeownership rates of any developed nation. In fact, the national homeownership rate in the United States has reached a record high of 69.1 percent and more than half of all minority families are homeowners. Over 73.4 million Americans are now homeowners, with many more achieving this goal on a daily basis.

Homeownership is the single largest creator of wealth for Americans. It is the largest investment most families will ever make and a key to promoting long-term economic stability for all Americans. For these reasons alone, we must continue to promote strong housing and refinance markets in America.

HOMEOWNERSHIP BUILDS STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Aside from helping millions of Americans achieve their dreams, homeownership also helps to build neighborhoods and strengthen communities.

Families who own homes have a vital stake in their communities, a stronger interest in the safekeeping of their neighborhoods, and a deeper commitment to the quality of their schools and libraries. Each home is a critical piece in a successful neighborhood, allowing families to enjoy community events together and share in the lives of their neighbors and friends. Owning a home also provides children with a place to learn, play, and grow, and gives homeowners a tangible stake in their cities and towns. As millions of American families have demonstrated, increased homeownership helps to build better communities, and better communities help to build a Better America.

CONGRESS'S ROLE IN PROMOTING HOMEOWNERSHIP

As responsible legislators, we need to ensure that government helps, rather than impedes, homeownership in America. When I came to Congress, I made it my top priority to highlight federal policies that have hindered the availability of housing in this country and to find ways for government to positively impact homeownership in America. While we have done much to help Americans become homeowners, we must do more. I firmly believe that Congress must cultivate an environment where more Americans can turn the dream of homeownership into reality.

I URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT HOMEOWNERSHIP
MONTH

I am very pleased to see the President has made it a priority to promote affordable housing and homeownership. The Administration

has taken a leading role in finding new and innovative ways to expand homeownership, particularly among minorities. I want to commend the hard work of Secretary Jackson and his team at HUD for their work in developing programs to increase affordable housing and encourage homeownership. I urge my colleagues to recognize the importance of homeownership in the United States and reinforce our commitment to providing homeownership opportunities for more Americans by cosponsoring this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO LUIS RODRIGUEZ
MAYORAL**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to baseball legend Luis Rodriguez Mayoral. For his outstanding service to the game of baseball, the National Puerto Rican Day Parade will honor Mr. Mayoral by having him serve as the Puerto Rican Grand Marshall for the world-famous parade June 12, 2005 in New York City.

Mayoral has been involved in baseball for over thirty years as a scout, manager, journalist and author. Throughout his many years of service to the game, he has had a positive and important impact on the sport and many of its players.

Mayoral's resume is long and impressive. He served as a scout for the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Chicago White Sox from 1972 to 1980 and as General Manager for the Arecibo and San Juan Baseball clubs in Puerto Rico from 1983-1985. He has also served as director of Spanish broadcasting for the Texas Rangers and as Latin American Liaison for the Detroit Tigers. In addition to this experience, Mayoral has been an important baseball broadcaster and journalist. He has broadcast over 2,000 baseball games for CBS, including All-Star and World Series games, and served as chief baseball correspondent for Puerto Rico's El Vocero newspaper for 18 years. He also found the time to write five books about baseball including a well received biography of the late, great Roberto Clemente.

As a result of his hard work and dedication, Mayoral has received numerous honors and awards. He has been honored by the Puerto Rican, Mexican and Laredo-Texas Halls of Fame. He was also a guest of President George W. Bush in the White House in 2001 and was named Puerto Rico's Sports Commentator of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues already know, I have a deep love and respect for the game of baseball. It is my belief that it is not just a game but an institution that has helped to bridge the gap between generations of Americans. As a lover of the game, I have a deep respect for all those who have had a hand in building and sustaining this uniquely American institution. While the players get all the attention, people like Luis Mayoral play a key role in making the game what it is by finding the players, bringing the joys of the game to the people, and expanding its accessibility. Mayoral's efforts have not only helped to bring new talent to the game but also new insight.

For his many years of service to the game of baseball, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Luis Rodriguez Mayoral.