

to health care practitioners about putting its findings to use to help cure diseases.

Companies like Prime Cell are continuing the great American tradition of private medical research that is responsible for many medical breakthroughs. For example, Jonas Salk, discoverer of the polio vaccine, did not receive one dollar from the federal government for his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that forcing taxpayers to subsidize embryonic stem cell research violates basic constitutional principles. However, S. 2754 also exceeds Congress's constitutional authority and may even retard effective adult stem cell research. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote against S. 2754 and vote to uphold President Bush's veto of H.R. 810. Instead, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3444, the Cures Can Be Found Act.

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SUPPORT FOR REPRESENTATIVE  
MOLLOHAN

**HON. JOEL HEFLEY**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, there is enough blame to go around. The minority leadership of the House has politicized the ethics process for partisan political gain. Likewise, the majority party has tried to take control of the ethics process again for partisan reasons.

I have been encouraged recently that the House Ethics Committee is again taking action in investigative matters. I am disappointed, however, that Representative ALAN MOLLOHAN (D-WV), the former ranking minority member, is being given blame by some for inactivity of the committee over the last 16 months.

If I put myself in Representative MOLLOHAN's position, I am not sure I would have acted any differently. The House Ethics Committee is the only House committee that has an even number of Republicans and Democrats. Due to the nature of the committee and the important work it conducts, all committee activity should be conducted on a bipartisan basis.

As I review the events at the start of the 109th Congress, it leads me to the conclusion that several important actions were conducted by the majority without consulting the minority. These partisan actions were contrary to the nature and spirit of the way business has been, and should be, conducted by the Ethics Committee. If I had been the ranking member of the Ethics Committee and the majority party had arbitrarily and unilaterally changed the rules I would have had an obligation to react, just as Representative MOLLOHAN did. If I had been the ranking member and the majority party unilaterally fired the senior committee staff in contradiction to rules which say both the majority and minority must agree, I would have had to react, just as Representative MOLLOHAN did. If I had been the ranking member and the majority party tried to put a partisan chief of staff in as the staff director for the Ethics Committee in contradiction to the standards of a nonpartisan staff I would have had to react, just as Representative MOLLOHAN did.

In other words, I feel Representative MOLLOHAN did exactly what was expected of him as the ranking minority member when the bi-

partisan nature of the ethics process was unilaterally challenged by the majority. He had the courage to stand up to partisan actions when he should have.

My experience with Representative MOLLOHAN when we served together on the Ethics Committee during the 108th Congress is that he was completely nonpartisan and that he would absolutely take no instructions from his leadership on the conduct of the Ethics Committee. That was my philosophy as well, and should be the stance of all who serve on this important committee.

Representative MOLLOHAN has recently been dealing with some other issues that I know nothing about and won't speak to, but as the committee chairman I couldn't have asked for a more thoughtful and considerate ranking member to work with.

His successor as ranking minority member on the Ethics Committee, Representative HOWARD BERMAN (D-CA), is an excellent choice. I have also worked with Representative BERMAN on the committee and I have the highest respect for him.

In conclusion, it is apparent to me that the leadership of both parties have forgotten the importance of a bipartisan ethics process in the House. The Ethics Committee proved during the 108th Congress that, working in a bipartisan manner, it could handle politically sensitive and difficult cases.

Both parties need to return to a bipartisan Ethics Committee and bipartisan ethics process or the House as a whole will continue to suffer.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER  
CENTER ACT OF 2006

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the Teacher Center Act of 2006.

First and foremost, I want to thank our teachers for their dedication and commitment to taking on all of the demands of their profession. We ask them to perform miracles every day in our underfunded and overcrowded system. And we owe it to them and to their students to provide more than rhetoric about our commitment to supporting teachers and helping them succeed.

Teacher quality is the number one in-school influence on student achievement. Congress recognized this when we passed the No Child Left Behind law and we've come a long way in making sure that every child is taught by a highly qualified teacher. In NCLB we also took a major step forward in improving professional development opportunities for our Nation's teachers. We moved away from 1-day workshops that were not connected to the curriculum and, instead, provided resources to help States and local school districts develop programs that provide continuous, high-quality professional development. This was—and is—essential to meeting the Nation's goal of high standards of learning for every child.

Now we have a responsibility to go to the next step, building on innovative models of dynamic professional development. Teachers tell us that in order to better meet the learning

needs of students, particularly those with the greatest needs, it is essential that we support teachers in honing their instructional skills and techniques with a full repertoire of research-based, proven strategies. We need to pay heed to their call.

The Teacher Center Act of 2006 builds on NCLB by assisting teachers in helping students meet high academic standards. Teacher Centers align professional development with state standards and district curricula and incorporate research about proven classroom strategies—all while meeting high levels of rigor and expertise in both the design and delivery of services.

Teacher Centers employ a strategy in which professional development is made available "for teachers, of teachers, and by teachers." Teachers' voices drive and design the services, which are delivered by expert, practicing teachers and other experts. Teacher Centers provide teachers with opportunities to take charge of their own professional growth and take a lead in the decision-making and implementation of staff development programs based on their needs.

One of the most exciting elements of Teacher Centers is the focus on data-driven instruction in which test results and other indicators of student need are used to drive classroom instruction and strategies. While Teacher Centers give priority focus to literacy and math, they also highlight other essential areas of the curriculum including science, social studies, art, music, foreign languages, health, and physical education. Interdisciplinary approaches to instruction are another example of the type of innovative approaches to professional development that the Teacher Centers provide.

Teacher Centers also help to bridge the gap between groups of students by promoting the effective use of technology to support instruction. Technology is changing at lightning speed and Teacher Centers are particularly helpful to teachers by helping them learn to use technology effectively in their classrooms.

Finally, as we move forward in efforts to ensure that all students receive a high-quality education, we must pay particular attention to the needs of English language learners, students with disabilities, recently arrived students from foreign countries, and other students with special needs. Teacher Centers provide a great opportunity for teachers of these students who have developed effective strategies for helping these students improve their academic achievement to share what they have learned with their peers.

The Teacher Center Act of 2006 is a positive and important step in strengthening the teaching profession and in strengthening our schools. I look forward to achieving the vision of a better school system for all of our children.

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MARRIAGE PROTECTION  
AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, while I oppose federal efforts to redefine marriage as something