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Congresswoman Matsui Praises Obama Administration's Commitment to Stem-Cell Research

Applauds Announcement of NIH Research That Could Lead to Life-Saving Discoveries

WASHINGTON, DC – Congresswoman Doris Matsui (CA – 05) made the following statement today after Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), announced that the NIH has approved thirteen embryonic stem-cell lines for use by U.S.-funded researchers:

“In March, I supported President Obama’s decision to lift the ban on the kinds of stem-cell research that can lead to groundbreaking discoveries and save lives. Today, I am encouraged that the NIH has taken the initiative to implement this research, which holds the promise of eliminating unnecessary suffering among Americans of all ages who are afflicted by heart attacks, diabetes, spinal cord injuries, and other ailments.

“For years, we have known that stem-cell research has the potential to unlock life-saving discoveries and revolutionize medicine. Unfortunately, until recently, ideology and political decisions limited our ability to invest in this necessary and exciting cutting-edge scientific research. This Administration has made it clear that science should not—and will not—be dictated by politics. As a result, we are renewing the hope of hundreds of Sacramentans who suffer from diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s Disease, heart disease, multiple sclerosis, bone marrow failure disorders, burns, spinal cord injuries, and dozens of other conditions for which stem-cell research represents the promise of a cure.

“It is also important to remember that stem-cell research is a long-term investment not just in the health of our people, but in the health of our economy. California is home to many of our nation’s leading research institutions that will play a tremendous role in the stem-cell research of today and tomorrow. Today’s investment in science is crucial in improving the health of future generations, creating jobs in our local economy, and helping America stay competitive in a

global marketplace.”

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