

(December 17, 2005) Congressman Lipinski Statement During Debate of H.R. 2520

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The Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend from Colorado for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great day for the countless number of Americans who may receive the gift of health and prolonged life because of what will be provided in this bill.

Cord blood and bone marrow stem cell treatments have been proven effective in combating over 65 different debilitating diseases, including leukemia, sickle cell anemia and osteoporosis.

Cord blood transplants have proven to be a viable alternative for those with difficulty finding an exact bone marrow match. Since the match does not have to be exact, this research benefits both children and adults alike and is especially helpful for people of various races and ethnicities. This bill will offer a much greater opportunity for a cure for thousands of Americans around this country who often struggle with blood matches.

But cord blood also holds the great potential of producing pleural potential cells that could cure many other diseases such as juvenile diabetes, a disease that I live with every day.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that we are acting to advance the possibility that this type of treatment will provide. A national cord blood bank will facilitate the expanded use of proven treatment to improve the health of so many Americans inflicted with these horrible diseases. This is a great Christmas gift of health to the American people.