

June 27, 2007

Current Cosponsors: Becerra, Dr. Weldon, Chairman Stark, Carson, Shea-Porter

LOOK WHO'S SPEAKING OUT AGAINST GENE PATENTS!

JOIN THE CHORUS AND COSPONSOR H.R. 977

Dear Colleague:

Since we introduced H.R. 977, the Genomic Research and Accessibility Act, in February, we have been amazed and appreciative of the support we have received from reputable folks and organizations all across this country. We wanted to share with you a few examples of what they have said:

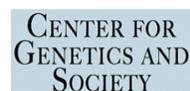
Michael Crichton
International bestselling author and medical physician
May 15, 2007

"Ordinarily we think of patents as promoting innovation and protecting industry, but gene patents do not. They arise from a regulatory error by the patent office, and in just a few short years they have had disastrous consequences..." [read more](#)



March Darnovsky
Associate Director
CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY
May 17, 2007

"... this bill goes a long way to ensuring that gene patents do not obstruct scientists from pursuing basic research and that private corporations do not exert monopolies over aspects of our common humanity..." [read more](#)



Judy Norsigian
Executive Director
OUR BODIES OURSELVES
May 17, 2007

"...the privatization and exclusive control of human genes is not only inhibiting biomedical research, it is also interfering with patient care, and runs counter to traditions in patent law serving to protect the public health and welfare ..." [read more](#)



Michael S. Watson, PhD, FACMG
Executive Director
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF MEDICAL GENETICS
May 22, 2007

"The ACMG believes firmly that gene sequences are naturally occurring substances for which patents should not be awarded..." [read more](#)



Joseph Mendelson, III
Legal Director
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT
May 24, 2007

"Patents on genetic material raise many controversial issues involving exclusive control over naturally occurring gene sequences and the significant curtailment of research, diagnoses, and treatment of diseases ..." [read more](#)



Martin Munzer
President & Chief Executive Officer
CYGENE LABORATORIES
May 25, 2007

"This research could have resulted in a new more accurate test for a much earlier diagnosis of this deadly virus..." [read more](#)



Anne Peters, MD
Director, USC CLINICAL DIABETES PROGRAM, Professor, USC KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
May 28, 2007

"Our ever expanding ability to decode the human genome provides the potential for a myriad of new cures and treatments. However, the patenting of human genes is something I strongly oppose. I believe that this creates to impediments to research, health care delivery and increases health care costs ..." [read more](#)



To learn more about H.R. 977, we invite you to visit the bill's Web site at <http://becerra.house.gov/HoR/CA31/Issues/genepatents.htm>. To cosponsor, please contact Steve Haro (Becerra) at 5-6235 or steve.haro@mail.house.gov or Michelle Kirtley (Weldon) at 5-3671 or Michelle.Kirtley@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/S
XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress

/S
DAVE WELDON, M.D.
Member of Congress