

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

June 4, 2021

The Honorable
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) is shocked by revelations of U.S. government officials and institutions evading transparency and the truth about research involving reckless laboratory experiments that have led to uncontainable consequences for our world. It is impossible to disconnect these revelations from the current debate over S. 1260, the so-called “Endless Frontier Act,” presumably aimed at making the U.S. more competitive against China.

The last thing the U.S. Congress should be doing is handing over blanket authority to government research institutions that are failing us. They lack accountability and transparency desperately needed at this pivotal moment, yet this bill does nothing to restore our confidence or ensure that our national security and fundamental human rights in research will be responsibly protected.

In fact, all attempts to bolster accountability have been stifled. During consideration of the legislation, CWALAC registered strong support for two amendments needed to provide explicit guardrails for the conduct of ethical research: an amendment by Sen. Mike Lee to prohibit funds for research involving aborted fetal tissue or embryo destruction and an amendment by Sen. Mike Braun to prohibit certain types of human-animal chimeras. Each of these amendments proposed modest but essential steps for Congress to maintain accountability and transparency for ethical research conducted by the U.S. and in collaboration with other countries and international organizations as authorized under the bill.

Senators should see fit to care about ethical research. These responsible policy measures should have been unanimously supported as commonsense protections in the development of the bill. Instead, these measures were considered on the floor as political footballs.

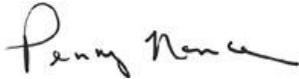
These prohibitions are especially crucial given that President Biden has removed restrictions on research using aborted babies and eliminated the Aderholt amendment in his FY 2022 budget request, which would lift the federal ban on gestating gene-edited embryos. Further, [recent](#)

[reports](#) that a team of scientists from China, Spain, and the U.S. created the first embryos that were part human and part monkey, in addition to the recent move by the International Society for Stem Cell Research to relax rules governing robust ethical research makes the situation all the more urgent.

Enabling such research to go unchecked raises severe ethical concerns. The dignity of human life at every stage of development must be respected and protected. There is nothing in this bill to ensure the U.S. and partners abide by ethical standards that the American people expect with the billions in taxpayer funds going to such activities, especially as the Biden Administration is fueling an all-out assault on long-standing bipartisan prolife protections.

This is the wrong time to be advancing a bill of this magnitude without serious consideration of essential accountability and transparency measures and the ethical landmines this bill leaves unchecked. CWALAC urges you to oppose final passage of the Endless Frontier Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Nance". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Penny Young Nance
CEO and President
Concerned Women for America LAC