

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2140

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Francis Collins, in recognition of his outstanding contributions and leadership in the fields of medicine and genetics.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 4, 2007

Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. ENZI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Francis Collins, in recognition of his outstanding contributions and leadership in the fields of medicine and genetics.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) Francis Collins, who was raised on a small
6 farm in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, decided to
7 pursue a career in chemistry when he was a high
8 school student;

1 (2) in the 1970s, after studying DNA and
2 RNA, Francis Collins recognized that a revolution
3 was on the horizon and decided to study medicine
4 and genetics;

5 (3) Francis Collins received a Ph.D. in Physical
6 Chemistry from Yale University in 1974, and an
7 M.D. from the University of North Carolina in
8 1977;

9 (4) after a fellowship in genetics at Yale Uni-
10 versity, Francis Collins joined the faculty at the
11 University of Michigan and discovered a new method
12 to identify abnormal genes;

13 (5) Francis Collins' work led to major advances
14 in modern medicine, including the identification of
15 genes responsible for cystic fibrosis,
16 neurofibromatosis, Huntington's disease, and
17 Hutchison-Gilford progeria syndrome;

18 (6) in 1993, Francis Collins succeeded James
19 Watson as Director of the National Center for
20 Human Genome Research at the National Institutes
21 of Health;

22 (7) as Director of the National Center for
23 Human Genome Research, Francis Collins was
24 charged with leading a 15-year effort to locate and

1 map every gene in the human DNA by 2005, and
2 then determine aspects of its function;

3 (8) in June 2000, ahead of schedule and under
4 budget, Francis Collins announced the completion of
5 a first draft of the human genome;

6 (9) the sequencing of the human genome, which
7 was completed in April 2003, is one of the most sig-
8 nificant advances in modern science;

9 (10) Francis Collins remains committed to
10 making the data from the human genome accessible
11 to the worldwide scientific community, and has been
12 a tireless champion of genetic information non-
13 discrimination;

14 (11) Francis Collins remains at the forefront of
15 understanding the connection between genes and dis-
16 ease, which he believes will eventually lead to a new
17 field of individualized, prevention-oriented medicine;
18 and

19 (12) Francis Collins has received numerous
20 awards and honors for his work and is a member of
21 the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy
22 of Sciences.

23 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

24 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President
25 Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House

1 of Representatives are authorized to make appropriate ar-
2 rangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress,
3 of a gold medal of appropriate design to Francis Collins
4 for his outstanding contributions in the fields of medicine
5 and genetics.

6 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
7 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
8 of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
9 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
10 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
11 retary.

12 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

13 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
14 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
15 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2, at
16 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
17 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
18 and the cost of the gold medal.

19 **SEC. 4. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.**

20 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
21 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
22 of title 31, United States Code.

23 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
24 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals

1 struck pursuant to this Act shall be considered numis-
2 matic items.

3 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS**
4 **OF SALE.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be charged against the United States
7 Mint Public Enterprise Fund, such sums as may be nec-
8 essary to pay for the cost of the medals struck pursuant
9 to this Act.

10 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
11 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
12 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
13 Fund.

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