

Majority Leader Bill Frist
Floor Statement on Cloning
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Today we received news that South Korea scientists have successfully cloned a mature human embryo. This is an alarming development.

C.S. Lewis saw decades ago the dangers facing human dignity. In his essay, the Abolition of Man, he warned that in conquering nature, nature is actually conquering mankind.

To clone a human being is move from the pro-creation to the manufacture of human life. This is dangerous.

My own profession is medicine. And a good physician must, I fundamentally believe, also be a very good scientist.

I can tell you from my own experiences that without revolutionary advances in medical science and technology, my own heart transplant patients of a decade ago simply wouldn't be alive today.

Indeed, we must reject an irrational fear of technological advance.

But the secret of human dignity is living within limits -- ethical limits, moral limits that don't hamper human advances, but preserve them and promote them.

We strongly support ethical stem cell research. But we reject the cloning of human beings.

Not only does human cloning experimentation of any kind offend the conscience, it is not medically necessary. As I have said on many occasions, there is no scientific basis to claim that human cloning experimentation is necessary for the long-term success or clinical application of stem cell research.

If human beings are special -- if we are truly sacred -- then we must devote ourselves to a better world. But we must not do evil to bring about good.