LEGISLATIVE GENERAL COUNSEL
₵ Approved for Filing: J.L. Wilson ₵
₵ 01-15-08 1:28 PM ₵

S.C.R. 4

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING UTAH'S NOBEL PRIZE WINNER MARIO CAPECCHI

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: John L. Valentine

House Sponsor: Greg J. Curtis

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor recognizes the achievements of Dr. Mario Capecchi, winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- recognizes Dr. Mario Capecchi's gene targeting research that won him the 2007 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine; and
- recognizes Dr. Capecchi's many accomplishments that led to his winning the Nobel Prize.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, On October 8, 2007, University of Utah professor Dr. Mario Capecchi was awarded the 2007 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his research into gene targeting;

WHEREAS, Dr. Capecchi shares the prize with Sir Martin J. Evans of Cardiff University and Oliver Smithies of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill;

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WHEREAS, according to the Nobel Foundation, the award was "for their discoveries of principles for introducing specific gene modifications in mice by the use of embryonic stem cells";

WHEREAS, Dr. Capecchi's work in developing a mouse model that is now used in hundreds of labs around the world is what singled him out for this honor;

WHEREAS, Dr. Capecchi has said, "in terms of our genetic content, mouse and human are 99.9% the same. So whatever we learn in the mouse is going to be directly applicable to the human";

WHEREAS, Dr. Capecchi's research makes possible a more comprehensive study of diabetes, cystic fibrosis, heart and neuropsychiatric diseases, and cancer, and the development of treatments to fight them;

WHEREAS, Dr. Capecchi and the University of Utah's Department of Genetics have brought extraordinarily positive recognition to the research community in the state of Utah;

WHEREAS, University of Utah President Michael Young said that Dr. Capecchi's gene targeting research "truly has changed the course of medical research," and added that Capecchi's work has helped University of Utah researchers discover the genetic predispositions to more diseases than any other university in the world;

WHEREAS, Dr. Capecchi's development of "knockout mice" technology, the ability to alter specific genes in mice with embryonic stem cells, has allowed researchers to model hundreds of diseases, including cancer;

WHEREAS, Dr. Capecchi, who previously taught at Harvard University, said he came to the University of Utah in 1973 because he knew that he would be able to focus on ongoing research projects, rather than having to produce short-term results;

WHEREAS, Dr. Capecchi's accomplishments are even more extraordinary in light of the suffering he endured in his early childhood years in his native Italy;

WHEREAS, Dr. Capecchi suffered through the Nazi occupation when his mother, a writer and poet who wrote against Nazism, and was taken away by the Gestapo;

WHEREAS, when money left behind for others to take care of him ran out, he was abandoned on the streets at three years of age;

WHEREAS, Dr. Capecchi's mother survived the Dachau Concentration Camp and spent nearly a year and a half searching before she found her son, and then moved with him to

the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Capecchi's accomplishments bring great honor to the entire state of Utah:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, recognize Dr. Mario Capecchi for his pioneering efforts in gene targeting that have resulted in his winning the 2007 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor recognize Dr. Capecchi's life of service that has greatly improved researchers' ability to understand diseases afflicting humans and develop treatments to fight them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Mario Capecchio, the University of Utah's Department of Genetics, and University President Michael Young.

Legislative Review Note
as of 11-15-07 9:14 AM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Fiscal Note

S.C.R. 4 - Concurrent Resolution Recognizing Utah's Nobel Prize Winner Mario Capecchi

2008 General Session

State of Utah

State Impact

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

1/21/2008, 12:11:18 PM, Lead Analyst: Ball, J.

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst