AMENDMENT TO H. CON. RES. _____,

AS REPORTED

OFFERED BY MR. CASTLE OF DELAWARE

At the end of title V, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. ___. POLICY ON FUNDING THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES**
2 **OF HEALTH.**
3 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—
4 (1) in the five years between FY1999-FY2003,
5 Congress doubled the budget for the National Insti-
6 tutes of Health from $13.7 billion in FY1998 to the
7 FY2003 level of $27.1 billion;
8 (2) the annual increases for FY1999 through
9 FY2003 were in the 14 percent to 15 percent range
10 each year;
11 (3) the budget for FY2004 and FY2005, re-
12 flected increases of between 2 percent and 3 percent,
13 levels which were below the biomedical inflation
14 index;
15 (4) in FY2006, the NIH appropriation declined
16 0.3 percent, marking the first decrease in the agen-
17 cy's budget since 1970;

1 (5) in FY2007, the final level was a 2.0 percent
2 increase over FY2006, compared to a projected bio-
3 medical inflation index of 3.7 percent for the year;
4 (6) for FY2008, the final funding level is 0.45
5 percent above FY2007, whereas the advocacy com-
6 munity had urged a 6.7 percent increase in the ap-
7 propriation as a step towards reversing the decline
8 in NIH's purchasing power that has occurred since
9 FY2003;
10 (7) the FY2008 funding represents an esti-
11 mated 11 percent decrease from FY2003 in infla-
12 tion-adjusted terms;
13 (8) the doubling of the agency budget that took
14 place between fiscal years 1996 and 2002 allowed
15 the NIH to expand its efforts to address old and
16 new challenges in biomedical science;
17 (9) our Nation's investment in NIH funding
18 has allowed researchers to explore scientific opportu-
19 nities on an unprecedented scale, however, to build
20 on existing knowledge and explore new areas, NIH
21 must be able to provide research support for innova-
22 tive ideas; and
23 (10) if NIH cannot fund new ideas, this will
24 not only hamper efforts to find cures, it will also dis-
25 courage up and coming researchers who could be-

1 come the next generation of basic and clinical sci-
2 entists.
3 (b) POLICY.—It is the policy of this resolution to
4 fund the National Institutes of Health at not less than
5 a 3.5 percent increase over the FY2008 funding level.