

Additional Views of Rep. Dave Weldon (FI-15)

While I am in agreement with most of the Science Policy report, I was disappointed that the policy statement did not elaborate on the the area of space science. The report mentions the international space station, which is our nation's largest multinational undertaking, but does not further elaborate on its critical role in scientific advancement. The space station will afford our nation's scientists innumerable opportunities for research in a weightless environment. This will create an opportunity for both government and private sector researchers to make incredible advances in medical, commercial, and basic science research. A part of our national science policy should be to encourage the use of the space station and other space endeavors to the greatest extent possible for the advancement of science.

In addition to research on the space station, we should continue to pursue other space science research, including deep space probes and possible planetary missions. These efforts will push our scientific expertise to the limit and open the envelope even further than we could imagine. It was our effort to put a man on the moon that lead to great advancements in rocket technology, life support, and related sciences. We must support efforts to stretch the envelope further.

Finally, as scientific research advances we must recognize that there are moral constraints that should limit our scientific endeavors. There are certain experiments that can be done but should not be undertaken because they reach beyond these moral constraints. We must not sacrifice moral conscience for the sake of science. In our scientific endeavors we must recognize that human life, at any age, has an inherent value and that even "worthwhile" scientific research should not transcend this.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Weldon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.