

July 18, 2006

Dear Congressman:

As the debate continues regarding our nation's fiscal commitment to stem cell research, we are writing to urge you to oppose the use of taxpayer funds for the destruction of embryos, and to support legislation that promotes ethical science and life-affirming research. Embryonic stem cell research destroys living human embryos, is very costly, and has not treated one human patient. We urge you to **OPPOSE H.R. 810/S. 471**, legislation requiring federal taxpayer dollars to be used to encourage the ongoing destruction of nascent human life. We urge you to **SUPPORT S. 3504/H.R. 5719**, legislation banning the harvesting of human fetuses for the purpose of experimental medical research. Finally, we urge you to **SUPPORT S. 2754/HR 5526** authorizing federal funding for research to derive pluripotent (embryonic-like) stem cell lines without creating or destroying human embryos – an ethical process that respects the sanctity of life.

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 810/S. 471) would require federal taxpayer dollars to be used to encourage the ongoing destruction of nascent human life. The bill would compel all American taxpayers to pay for research that relies on the intentional destruction of human embryos for the derivation of stem cells, overturning the current policy that supports research without promoting such ongoing destruction. Each human being begins as a human embryo, male or female. The federal government should not fund research that destroys human life. Stem cell research should be conducted in a manner that is life-affirming, and does not result in the destruction of nascent human life. We urge you to **oppose H.R. 810/S. 471**, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.

We do not dispute the benefits of stem cell research. Thousands of patients around the world are benefiting from the therapies derived from adult stem cells. More than 69 diseases and injuries are treatable using stem cells derived from the patients themselves, not human embryos. With limited federal funds available, research showing promise and yielding results should be prioritized over research that is untested and unproven. It makes no sense to divert limited resources and taxpayer dollars from the life-affirming treatments available through adult and non-embryonic stem cells.

There have been numerous reports of scientists potentially deriving embryonic-like (or pluripotent) stem cells in ways that have not required the destruction of a human embryo, using a variety of sources of cells, both animal and human. This research offers common ground into promising ways that stem cell research can be conducted without sacrificing life for medicine. For this reason, we urge you to **SUPPORT S. 2754/HR 5526** authorizing federal funding for research to derive pluripotent (embryonic-like) stem cell lines without creating or destroying human embryos – an ethical process that respects the sanctity of life.

Finally, we believe that a cloning ban is necessary to prevent embryos from being created just to be killed for research. Some researchers have already conducted "fetus farming" experiments with animals -- for example, by gestating cloned calves to four months and then aborting them to obtain their kidney and heart tissues for transplantation. We urge you to **support S. 3504/H.R. 5719** to ban the harvesting of human fetuses for the purpose of experimental medical research. The measure would make it a federal crime to create, acquire, or traffic in tissue derived from a human fetus created and grown either in a woman's womb or an animal's womb specifically for tissue harvesting.

Despite the attention given to embryonic stem cell research, stem cells harvested from living human embryos have yet to yield a reliable disease treatment in an animal model, let alone a human patient. Adult and other non-embryonic stem cells, however, are already doing today what many hope embryonic stem cells might do someday. We urge you to oppose research that destroys human life, and to support federal funding for research that is successful and proven.

Sincerely,

Abstinence Clearinghouse
American Family Association Action
American Values Coalition
CatholicVote.org
Citizens for Community Values
Culture of Life Foundation
Faith2Action
Fidelis
Florida Family Policy Council
Heartbeat International
International Right to Life Federation
Life Issues Institute
National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses
National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA)
National Right to Life Committee
Sanctity of Life Foundation
Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
Traditional Values Coalition
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