



FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE

ACTION ALERT

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR A HUMAN LIFE AMENDMENT, INC.
1500 Massachusetts Avenue, NW • Suite 24 • Washington, DC 20005

202.393.0703
FAX: 202.347.1383
NCHLA.ORG

Senate to Vote on Embryonic Stem Cell Legislation

The U.S. Senate will soon vote on a bill authorizing the use of federal funds to promote the destruction of human embryos for stem cell research. According to news reports, the Senate Democratic leadership might delay bringing up the bill until after the Senate returns from its Easter recess April 10. On January 11, the U.S. House of Representatives passed its own embryonic stem cell bill (H.R. 3), 253-yes, 174-no, well short of the two-thirds necessary to override a presidential veto. In 2006, the House failed to override President Bush's veto of an identical bill.

The President's policy limits federal funding of embryonic stem cell research to cells obtained from embryos by August 9, 2001. H.R. 3 would rescind this policy so new embryos, initially created for reproduction, can be killed for their stem cells if their parents give consent. An identical bill, S. 5, has been introduced in the Senate. Both H.R. 3 and S. 5 have been placed on the Senate calendar. The Senate is expected to take up S. 5.

The President has stated he will veto legislation of this kind. In his 2006 veto message President Bush stated: "If this bill would have become law, American taxpayers would, for the first time in our history, be compelled to fund the deliberate destruction of human embryos. And I'm not going to allow it. I have made it clear to Congress that I will not allow our nation to cross this moral line."

Destroying human embryos to obtain embryonic stem cells is immoral. It is also unnecessary. Stem cells from adult tissues, umbilical cord blood, and other morally acceptable sources are already producing treatments for diseases. Embryonic stem cells have yet to benefit any human patient. See: www.stemcellresearch.org and www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/bioethic/stemcell/index.shtml.

Please contact your two U.S. Senators and voice your objections to S. 5. The 2006 stem cell bill passed the Senate, 63-yes, 37-no. To check how your Senators voted, see NCHLA's Vote Track [NCHLA Senate Key Vote 131] at: nchla.org/keyvotes.asp. It is vital that Senators who voted "no" in 2006 continue to oppose the measure this year. See list at: nchla.org/datasource/idocuments/3TBockESCvtsB07.pdf. As a result of the fall elections there are also ten new Senators, for whom first votes on issues are especially important. See list at: nchla.org/datasource/idocuments/110thnewlyelected.pdf.

ACTION: Please contact your two U.S. Senators by U.S. Mail, FAX letter, e-mail, and by phone. Write: The Honorable ____, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, or call your elected officials' local offices. For Senators' full contact information, see: www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm.

MESSAGE: "Please oppose S. 5. Do not use my tax dollars to support research that requires destroying human embryos. Adult stem cell research is a morally acceptable alternative that is already producing therapeutic benefits for human patients."

WHEN: Action on S. 5 might be delayed until after Easter. Please act immediately! Updated 3/16/07