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July 29, 2005

The Honorable Bill Frist, M.D.
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Facsimile Transmission: 202/228-1264

Dear Senator Frist:


On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), I would like to thank you for the great leadership you displayed today on the floor of the U.S. Senate on the subject of the future of stem cell research. Your remarks conveyed both the complexity and promise of this field of research.

Since the breakthrough in embryonic stem cell research in 1998, AAAS has espoused the position that it is only through federal support of research on both adult and embryonic stem cells that we may better understand the potential value and limitations of each type. At the same time we have argued that this research should proceed in an ethical manner that engenders public confidence. Both these principles are consistent with your bold announcement this morning, and we applaud your thoughtful stand.

As part of our mission to “advance science and serve society” we are committed to the promotion of scientific responsibility. That is why in 1999, we crafted a set of ethical guidelines for stem cell research and its applications.

AAAS stands ready to work with you and the U.S. Congress in addressing this complex subject. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202/326-6639.

Sincerely,


Alan I. Leshner