



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

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November 7, 2003

The Honorable Bill Frist
Senate Majority Leader
SD-461 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Frist:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), I would like to thank you for your support of S. 1053, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

The completion of the human genome sequence has raised hopes of a medical revolution, but to take full advantage of this momentous achievement, we must ensure the highest levels of public confidence that genetic information will be used appropriately to improve health and not to discriminate unfairly against people. In 1999, AAAS convened a working group to examine this issue, and the group concluded that “society, in pursuit of the common good, has a responsibility to protect citizens against the misuse of genetic information.” Passage of S. 1053 represents a great stride toward this goal.

Founded in 1848, AAAS has worked to advance science for human well-being through its projects, programs, and publications, in the areas of science policy, science education and international scientific cooperation. The Association and its journal, *Science*, report nearly 140,000 individual and institutional subscribers, plus 272 affiliated organizations in more than 130 countries, serving a total of 10 million individuals. Thus, AAAS is the world’s largest general federation of scientists.

Thank you again for supporting this historic legislation. As always, AAAS stands ready to assist you on science-related issues.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner