



August 1, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist, MD
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4205

Dear Senator Frist:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the largest multidisciplinary science society in the world and the publisher of the journal *Science*, we would like to thank you for your leadership and support for the Stem Cell Research and Enhancement Act of 2005 (H.R. 810/S. 471) that was successfully passed by the Senate recently.

The scientific consensus is that embryonic stem cell research is an extremely promising approach to developing more effective treatments for devastating conditions like diabetes, spinal cord injuries, and Parkinson's disease.

AAAS continues to believe 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. The majority of Americans support this view as well. We need to ensure that the full range of approaches is studied, and expanding federally funded research on human embryonic stem cells would bring us closer to that goal.

Along with millions of patients, their families and physicians, and elected officials of both major parties, we in the scientific community are hopeful that one day this measure will be signed into law.

AAAS stands ready to continue to work with you and the U.S. Congress in addressing this complex subject in the future.

Sincerely,

Gilbert S. Omenn, M.D., Ph.D.
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Prof. of Medicine, Genetics, and Public Health
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Alan I. Leshner, Ph.D.
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