



January 8, 2007

Alan I. Leshner  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Executive Publisher, *Science*

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

This week the U.S. House of Representatives will again address the subject of human embryonic stem cell research. On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), we urge your support for H.R. 3, which would expand the current federal policy to permit researchers to gain greater access to new embryonic stem cell lines.

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 strongly believes that it is only through federal support of diverse avenues of stem cell research that we may better understand the potential value and limitations of each approach. Expanding federally funded research on human embryonic stem cells would bring us closer to that goal. The majority of Americans support this view, and last year's vote revealed that the majority of the Members of Congress also hold this position.

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, the world's largest multi-disciplinary science society, representing the interests of ten million scientists worldwide, and publisher of the prestigious peer-reviewed journal *Science*, has a longstanding interest and expertise in stem cell research. We issued recommendations in 1999 for the ethical conduct of stem cell science and have continually worked to provide resources to Congress, scientists, and the public on this important topic. Our most recent Congressional testimony took place last year before the Senate Appropriations Committee's Labor-HHS panel.

The scientific community 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.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner