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We Already Spend Billions on Stem Cell Research!

So why should taxpayers be forced to subsidize unnecessary and ethically-controversial research?

www.house.gov/souder

Dear Colleague,

This Thursday the House plans to vote on H.R. 3, a bill that would expand the number of human embryonic stem cells eligible for federally-funded research. Supporters of the bill would like you to believe that if the federal government fails to fund this research, no one else will. But this could not be further from the truth.

The federal government already significantly funds stem cell research. Through 2006, the National Institutes of Health has spent \$122 million on human embryonic stem cell research, \$396 million for research on embryonic stem cells from animal sources, and **\$2.29 billion** on all stem cell research. And this does not preclude the extensive amounts of funding for stem cell research—currently more than \$500 million—coming from state governments and the private sector. Furthermore, no less an authority than the *Journal of the American Medical Association* published a study in September 2005 that found **when public funding for research lapses, private funders almost always step in to take up the slack, often funding projects at a higher rate than the government.**

While I fervently disagree with these decisions by states and private donors to fund research that profits at the destruction of human life, these figures show that H.R. 3 is not necessary to ensure American stem cell researchers are supplied with adequate funding.

This outside research funding also comes at a time when the scientific need for specifically embryonic, as opposed to adult, stem cells is declining. For instance, a front-page story in Monday's *Washington Post* stated that—in contrast to embryonic stem cells having unique potential—increasingly “it appears there is a continuum of stem cell types, ranging from the embryonic ones that can morph into virtually any kind of tissue but are difficult to tame, up to adult ones that can turn into a limited number of tissues but are relatively easy to control.”

Given the expanding therapeutic possibilities of adult stem cell research, and the fact that a significant minority of Americans oppose research that ends the life of human embryos, **should American taxpayers really be forced to subsidize something so ethically controversial—research that requires the destruction of human life?**

Please join me in standing up for stem cell research that does not require the taking of human life, and oppose this unnecessary and unethical bill. For additional information, please contact Brett Swearingen at (202) 225-4436.

Sincerely,



Mark Souder