



## Member Societies

The American Physiological Society  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Investigative Pathology  
American Society for Nutritional Sciences  
The American Association of Immunologists  
American Association of Anatomists  
The Protein Society  
Society for Developmental Biology  
American Peptide Society  
Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities  
The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research  
American Society for Clinical Investigation  
Society for the Study of Reproduction  
Teratology Society  
The Endocrine Society  
The American Society of Human Genetics  
Society for Gynecologic Investigation  
Environmental Mutagen Society  
International Society for Computational Biology  
American College of Sports Medicine

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## Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

----Quality Life Through Research----

April 11, 2007

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

I am writing to urge you to withhold your veto from the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R.3 / S.5). As President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), I speak on behalf of 21 scientific societies representing over 80,000 biomedical research scientists. The scientific community is united in supporting an expansion of the existing number of embryonic stem cell lines available for federally funded research. As Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) himself recently stated, "American science will be better-served, and the nation will be better-served, if we let our scientists have access to more stem cell lines."

Embryonic stem cells are already providing new insights and invaluable information towards solving some of most debilitating diseases and conditions, including diabetes, Parkinson's disease, and neurodegenerative disorders. Although recent discoveries convey the enormous potential of these cells, they also represent progress made painfully slow by the arbitrary and outdated restrictions on permissible stem cell lines. Moreover, precious research resources are being wasted as scientists and research institutions are forced to duplicate facilities and materials to ensure compliance with the funding policy.

As a physician and scientist, I find the arguments that embryonic stem cells can be replaced with other types of stem cells to be especially frustrating. All stem cells have the potential to provide biological understanding that may help us find treatments and cures to the diseases that plague so many. But different types of stem cells provide entirely unique knowledge, and adult stem cells or newly derived technologies are simply unable to match the scientific promise of embryonic stem cells. Although there is no guarantee in science that embryonic stem cells will prove the ultimate key to curing their disease, the powerful hope that this area of research brings to patients and their families should not be underestimated. Delaying the expansion of funding for new lines, in prospect that a so-called 'alternative' to embryonic stem cells will be found, could delay relief and deny hope to patients suffering chronic ailments or injuries.

There is no higher priority than the health and well-being of our nation. Both the House and the Senate have passed H.R.3 /S.5 in an overwhelming bipartisan show of support for this exciting area of research. We humbly ask you to honor the wishes of the American people and sign the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act into law.

Sincerely,

Leo T. Furcht, M.D.  
FASEB President