

A LETTER TO THE STATE OF TEXAS

REGARDING THE FUNDING OF STEM-CELL RESEARCH

To whom it may concern,

As you must know by now, our new President, Barack Obama, has recently upheld federal laws imposed by former President George W. Bush regarding the funding of an extremely controversial, yet hardly dangerous, scientific issue: stem-cell research. Until now, financial support for this practice was severely limited by President Bush under his reign of Christian conservatism. During his eight years in office, the extremely tight limitations imposed on stem-cell researchers forced them to move their valuable and necessary practices to nations with more relaxed policies, most of them in industrialized Asia. The harm inflicted on medical researchers here in the United States, many of whom are located in Texas, is diminishing to our stance as a “scientifically advanced” nation.

It would be wise for the Texas legislature to legalize the federal funding of stem-cell research to help advance the cause of medical science and cure international diseases that kill millions of people every year. Yes, it is true that stem-cell research uses embryos from recently fertilized, day-old eggs, but the “taking” of one *possible* human life is needed to save millions from death. This is not “a kill for a kill”. This cannot even be considered murder. Human embryos are not even developed, and in the nine months they would spend inside the mother, *anything* could go wrong. These embryos are simply cells – they have no minds, feelings, bodies. They are not alive.

It’s all up to you politicians to make the choice: cure millions of people of painful deaths, or take the “lives” of a handful of unborn, undeveloped human embryos. In regards to this issue, we should not look to the public for an opinion: Texas, being one of the more religious states in the nation, is populated by people who do not have a

sufficient understanding of the way stem-cell research works to have any ideology about it. I am no expert either, but at least I have read about the process rather than look to some religious leader to tell me what to think.

So, in closing, I strongly urge you, the members of the Texas government, to fully and wholeheartedly support the funding of stem-cell research in this state. If you fail to live up to this, the region will be severely affected as sections of the medical research industry, based mainly in Houston, leave for other parts of the world to conduct their research. We have the opportunity to cure huge populations of raging sicknesses – and the people here are going to deny that of them out of some misplaced compassion for unborn embryos? That is sad. We must all abandon our religious misgivings and embrace science: the forefront of human knowledge.

Sincerely,

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