



MCC-NET ALERT

Issued: April 6, 2005

Push Needed to Sustain Veto of Cloning Bill

URGENT!

To: Catholics and Others of Good Will Opposed to Human Cloning & Embryo Research
From: Staff, Massachusetts Catholic Conference

Please contact your state representative immediately! Here's why:

On March 30, the State Senate approved a bill endorsing cloning and embryo research. On March 31, the House approved a slightly different version. The Catholic Church opposes both. Adult stem cell research is already helping people. Let's focus on research that is both effective and ethical.

As of April 5th, the Senate and House had not yet worked out the differences. Once they do, a final bill will be sent to the Governor. Then the Governor has up to 10 days to act. He has promised to veto any bill that endorses the cloning of human embryos for destructive research. A veto will kill the bill if enough legislators vote to sustain it. Our best chance is in the House. The March vote tallies are online at www.macathconf.org.

All state representatives can be reached by calling the State House switchboard at 617-722-2000. Ask to be transferred to your rep's office. If you do not know who that is, give the operator your home address to determine who represents you. Email addresses can be found online at <http://www.mass.gov/legis/>.

The message to your legislator's staff can be as simple as this:

"I am [your name] and I live at [your address]. I urge Representative [his or her name] to oppose legislation that endorses the cloning and destruction of human embryos. Please sustain a veto by the Governor so that such legislation does not become law."

Don't be fooled. Cloning goes by the technical name of "somatic cell nuclear transfer". Scientists at Harvard want to use this process to make copies of people at the embryo stage, and harvest embryonic stem cells, a step that kills the embryo. Two presidential commissions agree that a cloned embryo is human life. The United Nations has condemned all cloning. Adult stem cells work, and they can be obtained without hurting anybody. Let's focus on the non-controversial research. Science does not have to kill in order to cure.

Act today by calling your state rep. and get your friends to do the same before a vote takes place in the next two or three weeks!

Any questions, call the MCC staff at 617-367-6060 or email us at staff@macathconf.org.

Join other Catholics from across the Commonwealth in making our voices heard in the public policy arena by signing up for MCC-Net. This legislative network, sponsored by the Catholic Bishops of Massachusetts, through the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, furthers the Church's pro-life, pro-family, and pro-poor social vision. MCC-Net members will receive 2-6 legislative alerts a year to contact their state legislators on key bills.

**Become a member of MCC-Net today by signing up online at www.macathconf.org
or by calling the toll-free number, 866-367-0558**

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