



**ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICAN  
MEDICAL COLLEGES**

January 15, 2003

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
United States Senate  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) strongly endorses the Human Cloning Ban and Stem Cell Research Protection Act of 2003, sponsored by you and Senators Dianne Feinstein, Arlen Specter, Edward Kennedy, and Tom Harkin.

The AAMC joins with you in strongly opposing human reproductive cloning. To expose any person to the known risks and uncertainties involved in reproductive cloning would be unethical and unconscionable. However, it is important to recognize, as your bill does, the difference between reproductive cloning and the scientific potential of therapeutic cloning and regenerative medicine. Your bill will allow this potentially life-saving research to move forward.

We recognize the significant ethical issues that are raised about embryonic stem cell research and we respect the view of those who oppose such research, including some in our own medical school community. However, we are persuaded otherwise by what we believe is an equally compelling ethical consideration, namely, the unique potential afforded by embryonic stem cells, to alleviate human suffering and enhance the quality of human life.

The current opportunities in medical research are unparalleled in our nation's history. Among the brightest opportunities in medical research is the further study and application of both adult and embryonic stem cell technologies. The production of stem cells by nuclear transplantation may yet prove the most powerful and widely beneficial of all. However, we will never see the fulfillment of any of this promise if we choose to take the perilous and unprecedented path of banning through legislation research on nuclear transplantation to produce stem cells. We applaud your courageous leadership in support of medical research to improve the health of the American people.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.