



May 8, 2006

**Association of
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Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.
President

The Honorable William Frist, M.D.
Majority Leader
United State Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-7010

Dear Mr. Majority Leader:

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) strongly urges you to bring the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 810) to the Senate floor for consideration as soon as possible. The AAMC, which represents the nation's 125 accredited medical schools, some 400 major teaching hospitals, and more than 105,000 faculty in 96 academic and scientific societies, endorses this legislation to expand Federal support for stem cell research while adhering to strict federal oversight and standards. In accordance with current law, the legislation ensures that no Federal funding shall be used to derive stem cells or destroy embryos.

As you well know, the therapeutic potential of pluripotent stem cells is remarkable and could well prove to be one of the important paradigm-shifting advances in the history of medical science. These cells have the unique potential to differentiate into any human cell type and offer real hope of life-affirming treatments for diabetes, damaged heart tissue, arthritis, Parkinson's, ALS and spinal cord injuries, to name but a few examples. There is also the possibility that these cells could be used to create more complex organ structures that could replace diseased vital organs, such as kidneys, livers, or even hearts.

We were heartened by your July 29, 2005, announcement that you would support this legislation. It is now time for the Senate to vote on this legislation, which recognizes the need to expand Federal support of research on pluripotent stem cells so that the tremendous scientific and medical benefits of their use may one day become available to the millions of patients who so desperately need them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan J. Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.