

## Statement of Rep. Mike Castle on Harvard Stem Cell Institute Announcement Regarding Attempt to Create Disease Specific Stem Cell Line -- June 6, 2006

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, author of H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, today released the following statement regarding the announcement by the Harvard Stem Cell Institute that researchers have been authorized by Harvard University to begin creating disease specific stem cell lines:

"The approval to create disease specific stem cell lines is obviously a significant step forward in the area of stem cell research -- one that has rightly progressed only after great scrutiny by academia and ethicists at numerous review boards. I have met with these researchers and have been impressed by their vision, their dedication and their willingness to push forward in this area despite federal restrictions. It is my sincerest hope that this research will eventually lead us to clinical applications for those who are suffering from devastating diseases and injuries throughout the United States.

"Despite the fact that these research projects must be funded with private dollars, I believe they provide even more momentum for the U.S. Senate to pass H.R. 810, so all scientists throughout the U.S. can work on cutting edge research with new lines developed, not only those scientists sponsored by private funding.