

Castle Praises Senate Passage of H.R. 810, Urges President Bush to Reconsider Veto Threat -- July 18, 2006

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, author and sponsor of H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, today praised the Senate passage of his legislation. However, Castle once again urged President Bush to reconsider his veto threat and realize the importance of his signature on this legislation for the millions of Americans suffering.

"Today's passage of H.R. 810 is another indication of the widespread support of embryonic stem cell research and the potential it holds for the 1 out of 3 American patients who could potentially be helped by the life-saving research. I applaud the U.S. Senate for approving this legislation. Unfortunately, the biggest obstacle lies ahead and I strongly urge the President to look at the facts, listen to the majority of his fellow American citizens, including pro-life advocates like Nancy Reagan, Senator Orrin Hatch and former Senator John Danforth, and use his signature tomorrow to save lives.

"Having the President cast his first veto on my legislation is not a distinction that I would like to have. I started my work with embryonic stem cell research because of the hundreds of patients that came to see me, confident in the promise of the research. I realized, with their help, that this could be the answer to the illnesses that millions of Americans face, along with people all around the world. I hope the President thinks of these people as he potentially issues a veto."

H.R. 810, which passed the House of Representatives last May would expand the current federal embryonic stem cell research policy by allowing federally funded research to move forward on stem cell lines created ethically from excess IVF embryos that would otherwise be discarded as medical waste. Contrary to many reports, the legislation does not expand federal funding for stem cell research; rather it establishes an ethical construct and enables scientists to research the most robust and highest quality lines.