

## Castle: New Poll Shows 2 Out of 3 Americans Want Action in January on Stem Cell Research -- January 4, 2007

Washington D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, author of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, which was vetoed by President Bush last summer, today released the following statement regarding a new national opinion survey which says that more than two out of three Americans (68 percent) want the new Congress to take action in "its first 100 hours" to expand federal support for stem cell research. The poll was conducted by Opinion Research Corporation (ORC) for the nonprofit and nonpartisan Civil Society Institute (CSI) think tank.

"Today's news that a growing number of Americans, Democrats, Republicans and Independents and those of all different religions support stem cell research and would like to see an expanded federal stem cell policy is extremely encouraging. Strong support like this provides us with the momentum to once again pass an ethical stem cell research bill in the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. That is why I will join my colleagues in reintroducing legislation in the coming days. We cannot waste any time in moving forward with this crucial legislation -- one more day wasted is another day of suffering for those with diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS, Parkinson's, Alzheimers and countless other diseases. It is my hope President Bush will understand this and sign this legislation into law," Castle said.

Outline of other Survey Findings (according to CSI):

- Nearly two out of three Americans want bipartisan action on stem cell reform
- Action by Congress to overturn a Bush veto on stem cell research would be supported by 51 percent of evangelical Christians, 59 percent of Roman Catholics, 43 percent of Republicans, 59 percent of Independents and 84 percent of Democrats
- When respondents are provided information about stem cell research, the level of support rises to 74 percent and the level of opposition falls to 24 percent.
- Almost three out of four Americans (72 percent) say that "stem cell research is too important for Congress and the White House to 'play politics' with it by using it as a 'wedge' issue" to appeal to targeted segments of the population.
- The number one reason for people switching to support for stem cell research is being "persuaded by supporters of stem cell research"

The entire poll can be viewed at: <http://www.civilsocietyinstitute.org/>

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