

## Castle's Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act Passes House with Overwhelming Majority -- January 11, 2007

Washington, D.C. -- The House of Representatives today overwhelmingly passed The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, authored by Delaware Congressman Mike Castle to ethically expand the federal embryonic stem cell research policy. The legislation, which Congressman Castle authored with Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO), is identical to H.R. 810, which was vetoed by President Bush in July of 2006.

"It is clear that a majority of the House, just like a majority of Americans, back potentially life-saving stem cell research. Most importantly, this legislation would establish an ethical construct to oversee stem cell research by ensuring embryos were created solely for the purpose of fertility treatment, were in excess of clinical need and were going to be discarded anyways. We also included in the legislation strong protections to ensure no money could exchange hands. The decision to discard the embryo, which will be used for the research, will already have been made and only then can a couple donate an embryo for research. Prior to that decision, all other options are open to them, including embryo adoption.

" Through a vigorous debate, we also brought truth to the false claims put forth by our opponents and we continued to educate all of America about how this research may help those one in three Americans suffering from diseases like cancer, juvenile diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimers.

"I just hope that this legislation does not end up being vetoed -- yet again -- by President Bush. My goal has always been to advance scientific research -- in all areas of stem cell science -- in this country. We never know where the cures and treatments are going to come from and one cell type is not a replacement for another.

"We owe it to the millions of Americans suffering throughout the country. It is my hope that in the end we will be able to craft a final piece of legislation that is acceptable to advancing science and at the same time addresses the concerns of the Bush Administration. I am not sure that can happen, but I am committed to seeing if it can."

\*Attached is a summary of H.R. 3, 'The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007'.

### Summary of H.R. 3, 'The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act':

The Secretary of Health & Human Services shall conduct and support research on stem cells that have been derived from embryos ONLY if the following requirements are met:

1. Embryos used to derive stem cells were originally created for fertility treatment purposes and are in excess of clinical need.
2. The individuals seeking fertility treatments for whom the embryos were created have determined that the embryos will not be implanted in a woman and will otherwise be discarded; and
3. The individuals for whom the embryos were created have provided written consent for embryo donation and without receiving financial inducement.

The Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), shall issue guidelines 60 days

after enactment. These guidelines shall ensure that federally funded researchers adhere to ethical considerations. The Secretary shall annually report to Congress about NIH funded stem cell research.

###