
CASTLE, HOUSE COMMITTEE REVIEW FUTURE OF STEM CELL RESEARCH -- May 8, 2008

WASHINGTON, DC - As the first hearing on stem cell research in the House of Representatives since the enactment of the President's restrictive 2001 policy, Rep. Michael N. Castle (R-DE) and Energy and Commerce Committee Vice Chair Diana DeGette (D-CO), chief architects of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, heard from the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and leading scientists on recent advancements. While Rep. Castle is not a member of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, he has been a longtime proponent of stem cell research in Congress. Rep. Castle issued the following statement about today's hearing.

"I have been deeply involved in working to expand the federal policy on stem cell research over the last several years with my friend Diana DeGette, and I am encouraged to see momentum building in Congress again for advancing this essential research. Today, we heard from leading scientists about the great advances in stem cell technology since it was last debated in Congress," said U.S. Rep. Castle.

"I cannot stress enough the promise of stem cell research for alleviating the suffering of the 100 million American patients who are living with devastating diseases for which there are no good treatments or cures. I am hopeful that federal support for all forms of stem cell research will move forward with a new president. Stem cell research has been quieted since the President's Directive in 2001 and I look forward to working with Rep. DeGette on legislation to promote a federal framework at the National Institutes of Health for all forms of ethical science that could advance human health, and to laying the groundwork for a more comprehensive national stem cell research effort."

To learn more about Rep. Mike Castle's stem cell initiatives, please visit www.castle.house.gov.

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