



Dedicated to Advancing Stem Cell Research

Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research

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**The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (S.5/H.R. 3)
Senators Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Tom Harkin (D-IA)
Representatives Mike Castle (R-DE) and Diana DeGette (D-CO)**

SUMMARY

This bill expands the number of stem cell lines that are eligible for federally funded research, thereby accelerating scientific progress toward cures and treatments for a wide range of diseases and debilitating health conditions.

Under the current federal policy on human embryonic stem cell research, only those stem cell lines derived before August 9, 2001, are eligible for federally funded research. This bill lifts that restriction. Stem cell lines shall be eligible for federally funded research regardless of the date on which they were derived.

The bill also institutes stronger ethical requirements on stem cell lines that are eligible for federally funded research.

LEGISLATIVE STATUS

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (S. 5) passed the Senate on April 11, 2007 by a vote of 63 to 34 and the House of Representatives on June 7, 2007 by a vote of 247 to 176. President Bush vetoed the bill on June 20, 2007.

SECTION BY SECTION

Section 1 Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007
Section 2 Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research

The Secretary shall conduct and support research on stem cells that have been derived from embryos 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.

The Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the 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 stem cell research.