



BIOTECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRY
ORGANIZATION

October 3, 2005

The Honorable Jim Doyle
Governor, State of Wisconsin
State Capitol, P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707-7863

Dear Governor Doyle:

On behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) and the Wisconsin Biotechnology and Medical Device Association, I am writing to express concern with legislation that has been forwarded to you by the Wisconsin Senate. Assembly Bill 499, in its current form, would prohibit all forms of human cloning. This legislation will effectively outlaw a very promising area of biomedical research.

BIO is the largest trade organization to serve and represent the biotechnology industry in the United States and around the globe. BIO represents more than 1,000 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers, and related organizations in the United States. BIO members are involved in the research and development of health-care, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products.

BIO and the Wisconsin Biotechnology and Medical Device Association are opposed to human reproductive cloning. It is too dangerous technically and raises far too many ethical and social questions. However, using cloning technology (somatic cell nuclear transfer) to clone human cells for therapeutic purposes is considered one of the most promising avenues of research for developing cures for a host of diseases and disabilities including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes and various forms of cancer.

We support recent recommendations by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) that the cloning of human beings for reproductive purposes should be prohibited. However, the report also states that, "the scientific and medical

1225 EYE STREET, N.W., SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-5958

202-962-9200
FAX 202-962-9201
<http://www.bio.org>

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considerations that justify a ban on human reproductive cloning at this time are not applicable to nuclear transplantation to produce stem cells.

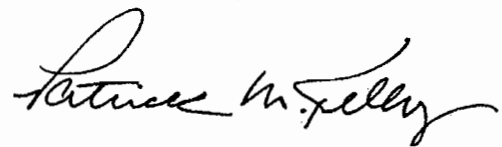
Because of the considerable potential for developing new medical therapies to treat life-threatening diseases and advancing biomedical knowledge, the panel supported the conclusion of a previous National Academies' report—*Stem Cells and the Future of Regenerative Medicine*—that recommends that biomedical research using nuclear transplantation to produce stem cells be permitted.” (A copy of this report is available on the NAS Web site, www.nationalacademies.org.)

The implications of cloning a human being need to be addressed by scientists, ethicists, religious leaders, health professionals, patients and broader society. We are concerned that, unless people clearly understand the benefits and limitations of different scientific techniques, well-meaning legislation will continue to threaten vital research.

You have been a consummate champion of improving the quality of life of the people of Wisconsin. There is great potential in stem cell research to create treatments and cures for people currently suffering from untreatable diseases. We hope you will consider the potential of this research to help those people and to help future generations to come.

We strongly encourage you to veto this legislation. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (202) 962-9200.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Kelly
Vice President
State Government Relations

cc: Wisconsin Biotechnology and Medical Device Association