



BIOTECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRY
ORGANIZATION

May 26, 2004

The Honorable Sydnie Mae Durand
Louisiana House of Representatives
Committee on Health & Welfare
P.O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

On behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), please accept this letter in support of Senate Bill 74, a bill that would prohibit reproductive human cloning in Louisiana. We understand the Committee on Health & Welfare will consider this legislation today.

BIO is a national organization representing more than 1000 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations in all 50 U.S. states and 33 other nations. BIO members are involved in the research and development of health care, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products

BIO is categorically opposed to human reproductive cloning – that is, cloning to reproduce a living, breathing human being. It is too dangerous technically and raises far too many ethical and social questions to be undertaken. However, using cloning technology (somatic cell nuclear transfer) to duplicate human stem cells for therapeutic purposes is considered one of the most promising avenues of research for developing cures for a wide array of diseases and disabilities. Senate Bill 74 preserves this very promising area of research.

We are concerned that there may be efforts to amend Senate Bill 74 to expressly prohibit cloning technology for developing stem cells. We encourage committee members to be aware of any efforts to change the current definition of “clone” in the bill. Any changes to this legislation (as received from the Senate)

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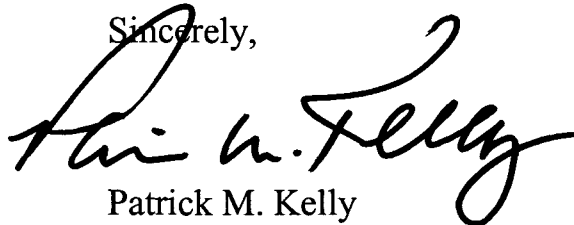
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could make it illegal to conduct life-saving research in Louisiana. **We encourage the committee to approve this legislation without any amendments.**

Louisiana has a strong and emerging life sciences industry. Passage of this legislation will send a clear signal that Louisiana is serious in its commitment to become a center of excellence for biomedical research and development.

If you have any questions about our organization or need additional information, please contact me at (202) 962-9503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick M. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and "K".

Patrick M. Kelly
Vice President
State Government Relations