

2005 Federal Stem Cell Research-Related Bill Update

As of 5/17/05

HR 810 (Castle/DeGette) and S 471 (Specter/Harkin)

Title: “Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005”

Cosponsors: 200 for Castle/DeGette; 29 for Specter/Harkin

Summary:

- Amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct and support research that utilizes human embryonic stem cells, regardless of the date on which the stem cells were derived from a human embryo.
- Limits such research to stem cells that meet the following ethical requirements:
 - (1) the stem cells were derived from human embryos donated from in vitro fertilization clinics for the purpose of fertility treatment and were in excess of the needs of the individuals seeking such treatment;
 - (2) the embryos would never be implanted in a woman and would otherwise be discarded; and
 - (3) such individuals donate the embryos with written informed consent and receive no financial or other inducements.

Status:

- Castle/DeGette in House Committee on Energy and Commerce (vote on floor before Memorial Day likely)
- Specter/Harkin in Senate Judiciary

HR 1822 (Bono) and S 876 (Hatch/Feinstein)

Title: “Human Cloning Ban and Stem Cell Research Protection Act of 2005”

Cosponsors: 5 for Bono; 12 for Hatch/Feinstein

Summary:

Prohibits human cloning and protects important areas of medical research, including stem cell research and somatic cell nuclear transfer

- Sets forth criminal and civil penalties
- Requires ethical standards for nuclear transplantation research, including informed consent, prohibits compensation for donation, institutional review board review, and protection for safety and privacy
- Establishes 14-day rule – an unfertilized blastocyst cannot be maintained after more than 14 days from its first cell division

Status:

- Bono in Subcommittee on Health of House Committee on Energy and Commerce
- Hatch/Feinstein in Senate Judiciary

HR 1357 (Weldon) and S 658 (Brownback)

Title: “Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2005”

Cosponsors: 118 for Weldon; 31 for Brownback

Summary:

- Amends the Public Health Service Act to prohibit: (1) performing or attempting to perform human cloning, including somatic cell nuclear transfer; (2) participating in such an attempt; or (3) shipping or receiving an embryo produced by human cloning or any product derived from such an embryo. Prohibits knowingly importing such an embryo.
- Sets forth criminal and civil penalties – imprisoned up to 10 years or fined not less than \$1 million.

Status:

- Weldon in House Judiciary
- Brownback in Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions