

June 13, 2002

The Honorable Tom Daschle  
Office of the Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

I am writing on behalf of 60,000 biomedical research scientists to urge you to oppose a moratorium on nuclear transplantation to produce stem cells, often referred to as "therapeutic cloning." We believe that a moratorium is as harmful as a ban.

We agree with the proponents of the moratorium that this issue is fundamentally a moral one -- there is no scientific issue to be resolved that would constitute the basis of the moratorium. But, we believe that it is a moral imperative more than anything else that impels this research. Indeed, we believe that it would be immoral to delay vital research that promises to help so many people.

The United States must lead by setting appropriate moral and ethical guidelines that enable our best scientists to apply their talent and expertise to find potential treatments and cures for the diseases that plague millions at home and around the globe. A moratorium will do nothing but impede this progress.

We want to thank you for your leadership in supporting vital biomedical research and urge you to oppose any efforts to delay potential cures.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Rich  
President