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## **FASEB Responds to Report of the President's Council on Bioethics**

**Bethesda, MD** — In response to a report released today by the President's Council on Bioethics, FASEB President Steven L. Teitelbaum, M.D., restated FASEB's opposition to a moratorium on somatic cell nuclear transfer. A four year moratorium is one of the recommendations in the report, "Human Cloning and Human Dignity: An Ethical Inquiry." Seven members of the Council, however, opposed this recommendation. There is no scientific basis for a moratorium, and preventing this research from going forward will only delay potential cures and treatments for many diseases. "The National Academy of Sciences and many other experts have examined this issue carefully and recommended that this vital research progress under appropriate guidelines. We concur with their conclusions and believe it is imperative that there be no delay," stated Dr. Teitelbaum. The second recommendation of the Council's report, that cloning for reproductive purposes be banned but that cloned embryos be allowed for research purposes, is in line with FASEB's position on human cloning.

*FASEB is comprised of 21 societies with more than 60,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB's mission is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB serves the interests of these scientists in those areas related to public policy, facilitates coalition activities among Member Societies and disseminates information on biological research through scientific conferences and publications.*

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