



Dedicated to Advancing Stem Cell Research

Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research

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February 6, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We were encouraged to learn in the media today of your statement that it is a "guarantee" you will sign an Executive Order to lift the current federal restrictions on funding for embryonic stem cell research. Your steadfast commitment to this issue over the years has brought hope to the more than 100 million Americans who suffer from cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injuries, heart disease, ALS, and other debilitating diseases and disorders for which embryonic stem cell research provides great potential. In addition, your commitment during the campaign to treating this as a priority item was clear. However, we are concerned about the recent implication, in the same media reports, that an Executive Order would need to be coordinated with legislation.

We strongly urge you to issue a straightforward Executive Order that simply reverses President Bush's policy and calls on the National Institutes of Health to issue appropriate guidelines. Follow-on legislation that codifies an Executive Order may be appropriate but, in the interest of timing and clarity of policy, the two do not need to be linked.

While we understand the many pressing issues facing your Administration and the nation at large, we renew the call for an Executive Order that reverses the restrictions imposed in August 2001, and instructs the National Institutes of Health to disseminate the ethical guidelines necessary to move this research forward swiftly and ethically.

There is no more time to wait.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Comstock Rick". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Amy Comstock Rick
President