



Dedicated to Advancing Stem Cell Research

Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research

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July 10, 2008

The Honorable Karen Bass
Speaker, California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0013
Via Facsimile: (916) 319-2147

RE: SB 1565

Dear Speaker Bass,

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR) to urge the California State Assembly to reject any legislation that would adversely impact the progress of stem cell research in your state. CAMR represents the voices of patients, physicians, scientists, and academic institutions across the country in the hope that embryonic stem cell research will provide cures and better treatments for those who suffer from debilitating diseases and disorders. We have grassroots members from patient and other advocacy organizations in every state in the nation, including California.

We are concerned about any legislation in California that may dampen enthusiasm for stem cell research by creating formula price controls for drugs or therapies developed by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) and its grantees. This is not the first time CAMR has expressed concern about the impact of proposed legislation on research conducted by CIRM.

In May 2007, we directed a letter to the leadership of the California Senate to express our opposition to SB 771, a bill authored by Senator Sheila Kuehl that proposed a new process to establish drug prices. (A copy of our previous letter is attached for your information.) California made the right decision by striking the anti-research provisions in that bill and we hope that position will be maintained on any other bills that come before you. We specifically oppose any legislation that might create a rigid pricing formula for products resulting from research at CIRM that could drive away private investment in stem cell research.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns. We urge California to continue with its progress and global leadership in the field of stem cell research by rejecting any legislation that would create new barriers to research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Comstock Rick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Comstock Rick, President

Attachment: CAMR 2007 Letter

cc: Assemblyman Mark Leno
Senator Sheila Kuehl
Senator George Runner