

R013-0405

10 **RESOLUTION CONCERNING**
20 **FEDERAL FUNDING FOR EMBRYONIC STEM CELL**
30 **RESEARCH**

40 **WHEREAS:** Currently, only those embryonic stem cells which were removed prior to August
50 9th, 2001, are permitted for use in research studies funded in part by the National
60 Institutes of Health's federal funds; and,

70 **WHEREAS:** Only embryonic stem cells are pluripotent, meaning they can give rise to any
80 other cell type; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** Adult stem cells are not ideal for research since they are already differentiated,
100 are present in only minute quantities, and potentially contain many more DNA
110 abnormalities than embryonic stem cells; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** Sixty (60%) percent of human diseases are genetic, and stem cell research has
130 the potential to understand the basis for these diseases, therefore giving rise to
140 potential cures; and,

150 **WHEREAS:** Presently, the number of individuals waiting to receive a donated organ far
160 exceed the number of organs available for transplant; and,

170 **WHEREAS:** Since embryonic stem cells are pluripotent, they can give rise to any cell type in
180 the body, including those of organs and tissues, such as the heart, lungs, kidneys,
190 et al; and,

200 **WHEREAS:** Currently, blood forming stem cells are commonly used in bone marrow
210 transplants to treat leukemia, lymphoma, and other inherited blood disorders;
220 and,

230 **WHEREAS:** Stem cells also offer the potential to treat innumerable diseases, including
240 Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, spinal cord injury, stroke, burns, heart
250 disease, diabetes, osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis; and,

260 **WHEREAS:** There is virtually no facet of modern medicine that might not be positively
270 affected by this innovation; and,

280 **WHEREAS:** The United States government allows for federal funding of other research
290 projects at the NIH which will potentially, but not certainly, have a positive
300 outcome , such as research regarding cancer and the Human Immunodeficiency
310 Virus.

320 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the United
330 States Congress and the current administration to allow for federal funding of
340 the National Institutes of Health, Center for Disease Control, and the United
350 States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases for the purpose
360 of embryonic stem cell research; and,

370 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the NIH, CDC, and USAMRIID would be allowed to
380 distribute these funds through their grants; and,

390 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature further urges the United
400 States Congress to permit that this research include embryonic stem cells
410 removed after August 9th, 2001.

420 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush
430 Vice President Dick Cheney
440 House Majority Leader Tom DeLay
450 House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
460 Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
470 Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
480 Representative Sherwood L. Boehlert, Science Committee Chair
490 Representative Roscoe G. Bartlett, Science Committee Member
500 Senator Judd Gregg, Health Committee Chair
510 Senator John McCain, Science Committee Chair

Sponsor:

Kelley Harris, Speaker of the Assembly, University of Maryland, College Park

Cosponsor:

Nick Vogtman, Delegation Chairperson, University of Maryland, College Park