



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 23, 2008

The Honorable Senator James Metzen  
President of the Senate  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
322 State Capitol  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Metzen:

I write to inform you that Senate File 100, Chapter 351, a bill that would sanction additional embryonic stem cell research and allow therapeutic cloning, has been vetoed. Although return of the bill to the house of origin and a veto message are not required because the Legislature has adjourned *sine die*, I wanted to share my concerns about this bill with the Legislature.

I support stem cell research that is consistent with sound ethical and moral standards. As stated in earlier letters sent to legislators, I would be willing to consider signing legislation that would rely on technology or methods such as:

- using stem cells from discarded umbilical cords;
- using placental stem cells;
- using adult-derived stem cell lines;
- extracting stem cells from embryos without damaging them;
- using stem cell lines generated from amniotic fluid; and
- deriving pluripotent stem cells from embryos that have died naturally in the course of attempts to use them in fertility treatments, but yet the stem cells within the embryo are still viable for research purposes.

Moreover, stem cell research is evolving rapidly. Significant and promising progress continues to be made on the use of adult stem cells. This creates ample opportunity to work toward lifesaving cures without crossing core ethical and moral boundaries. We should encourage this science.

The Honorable Senator James Metzen

May 23, 2008

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In November 2007, two independent studies from the University of Wisconsin and Kyoto University in Japan showed adult skin cells can be reprogrammed into induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC). These stem cells exhibit the same characteristics of an embryonic stem cell without destroying an embryo or causing harm to the donor. This procedure was replicated a month later by scientists at Harvard University.

Unlike embryonic stem cells, which are obtained by destroying live embryos, iPSCs are made directly from adult stem cells by adding a small number of factors to these cells in the laboratory. No human eggs are required and no human embryos are destroyed.

Minnesota should follow the lead of these and other great institutions. The options outlined above create ample opportunity for stem cell research without crossing moral and ethical lines relating to embryos or cloning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Pawlenty', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Pawlenty  
Governor

cc: Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader  
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader  
Senator Richard Cohen  
Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Speaker of the House  
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader  
Representative Phyllis Kahn  
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate  
Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives  
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State