BIOTECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRY
ORGANIZATION

March 1, 2005

Honorable Michael Castle
United States House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Diana DeGette
United States House of Representatives
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Castle and DeGette:

On behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), I am writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 810, the *Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act*. BIO commends and thanks you for sponsoring a bill that will allow scientists to continue the research that brings hope to millions of patients and their families.

In August of 2001, the Administration approved federal funding for research using the human embryonic stem cell (hESC) lines already in existence at the time. Now, nearly four years later, it has become apparent that for the full potential of this important science to be reached, the current policy regarding federal funding of hESC research must be expanded. Your legislation will increase the number of cell lines available for federal funding, while building on the existing National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines to ensure ethical use of the cells.

Embryonic stem cell research may provide scientists with the tools to develop cures for some of the world's most devastating illnesses and injuries, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, ALS, and spinal cord injury. Patients and families look to legislators like you to help this life-saving research continue.

We appreciate your continued efforts, and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Greenwood

James C. Greenwood
President and CEO

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