FBR FOUNDATION FOR BLOOD RESEARCH
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March 16, 2005

The Honorable Michael Castle
US House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Castle:

As a member and former President of the Association of Independent Research Institutes (AIRI), I am writing to strongly support your legislation, H.R. 810, The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, which would expand federal support for human stem cell research.

I understand first-hand, as a research administrator, the promise held by human embryonic stem cell research. This research may make it possible for those Americans crippled by Parkinson's disease and spinal cord injuries, as well as those suffering from Alzheimer's and many other debilitating diseases, to significantly improve their quality of life. Promoting the exploration of reasonable possibilities for curing and preventing disease is the responsibility not only of scientists but also of the leaders of our nation.

Thank you for acknowledging the promise of continued medical discovery that embryonic stem cell research can offer. Your thoughtful legislation not only allows for broader federal funding for stem cell research, but also takes the appropriate steps to ensure the development of ethical guidelines for the future derivation of embryonic stem cell lines.

I appreciate your prominent leadership and your dedication to expanding stem cell research, which holds the potential for new cures and therapies for an array of life-altering diseases affecting millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

Jane Sheehan

Jane Sheehan, Esq.
Vice President – Chief Operating Officer

MJS/lis

via fax: 202.225.2291