



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind, Bipartisan Majority Votes to Advance the Progress of Life-Saving Stem Cell Research

*Bill Gives Hope to 100 Million Americans Affected by Debilitating or Life-Threatening
Diseases & Their Families*

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) hailed the bipartisan passage of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 3) as a step forward in the ethical advance of life-saving research offering hope to millions of Americans suffering from debilitating diseases. The bill's passage (253-174) marks the second time in as many years the House has passed legislation in support of expanding stem cell research. In 2006, President Bush issued the first veto of his presidency to strike down the bill.

"Biologists, medical experts, and the vast majority of Americans agree there is a reservoir of discovery in embryonic stem cell research that offers hope for more than 100 million Americans afflicted with life-threatening and debilitating diseases," stated Rep. Kind. "The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act allows this critical research to move forward in an ethical way by expanding the number of stem cell lines readily available to scientists while imposing strict ethical guidelines to ensure proper federal oversight."

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act expands embryonic stem cell research by lifting the restrictions imposed by President Bush on the number of stem cell lines eligible for federally-funded research. Of the 78 embryonic stem cell lines originally approved by the President, only 22 are listed as available on the current National Institutes of Health Human (NIH) Embryonic Stem Cell Registry. The approved stem cell bill allows for an increase in the number of lines eligible for research in concert with the adoption of a strict ethical framework governing the research under the guidance of the NIH.

"Medical experts agree that there is great life-saving potential in stem cell research, but even the finest scientists and researchers in the field cannot overcome the obstacles current federal policies pose," stated Rep. Kind. "From the study of human development to the discovery of life-saving cures, there are just too many potential benefits to allow misguided federal policies roadblock the continuation of this groundbreaking research, which holds such promise and hope for so many lives."

The bill now moves to the Senate where it is expected to pass. It is unclear if President Bush will again veto this bill.