

By: Senator(s) White

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 548

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT HUMAN CLONING IS
2 AGAINST THE PUBLIC POLICY OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND
3 SUPPORTING ETHICALLY RESPONSIBLE STEM CELL RESEARCH.

4 WHEREAS, adult stem cell research has shown greater promise
5 than human embryonic stem cell research, yielding successful
6 clinical trials to treat more than 50 diseases; and

7 WHEREAS, for example, research involving (umbilical) cord
8 blood has produced an increasing number of therapies in clinical
9 trials; and

10 WHEREAS, human embryos are human beings at the earliest stage
11 of biological development; and

12 WHEREAS, destructive human embryo research to obtain
13 embryonic stem cells raises grave moral, ethical, scientific and
14 medical issues that must be addressed; and

15 WHEREAS, cloning of embryos for research requires the
16 donation of a significant number of eggs from women, that
17 significant medical risks exist for women who undergo ovarian
18 hyperstimulation to produce eggs to donate for cloning embryos,
19 and that a significant percentage experience severe ovarian
20 hyperstimulation syndrome, which can cause pain, and occasionally
21 leads to hospitalization, renal failure, potential future
22 infertility, and even death; and

23 WHEREAS, researchers must take every opportunity to tell
24 potential egg donors that it is extremely unlikely that their
25 contributions will directly benefit themselves or their loved
26 ones; and

27 WHEREAS, there are practical, scientific problems with
28 embryonic stem cells--including making the embryonic cells
29 differentiate into specific viable cells consistently and the
30 uncontrollable development of teratomas--that may prevent any
31 development of real therapies; and that, in any case, it is nearly
32 certain that any clinical benefits from any embryonic research are
33 years or maybe decades away; and

34 WHEREAS, the success of South Korean researchers in producing
35 cloned human embryos and customized embryonic cell lines, so
36 widely touted since 2004, has recently been proven to be
37 erroneous, if not fraudulent; and

38 WHEREAS, progress in medical research cannot rely on the
39 premise that some human lives should be destroyed now to possibly
40 help other lives in the future; and

41 WHEREAS, progress in medical research and treatment does not
42 require the destruction of human life, because progress can be
43 ethically and successfully pursued through the use of adult stem
44 cells; and

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
46 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
47 we do hereby declare the following:

48 (a) Human cloning; including the cloning of human embryos
49 and embryonic research, is against public policy;

50 (b) We support ethically responsible stem cell research,
51 while opposing any research that exploits or destroys human
52 embryos;

53 (c) We support the development of strategies to assist
54 Mississippi universities in developing their capacity to attract
55 and retain adult stem cell researchers.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
57 the Governor, the State Board of Health and the State Medical
58 Licensure Board and the National Health Institute and be made
59 available to the Capitol Press Corps.