



Impending Vote on Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act a Milestone for the Pro-Cures Coalition

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To: National Desk

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WASHINGTON, June 29 /U.S. Newswire/ -- The following statement may be attributed to Eve Herold, director of public policy research and education of the Genetics Policy Institute (GPI).

Earlier this month stem cell activists from around the United States gathered at Stanford University at the second annual GPI "Stem Cell Policy & Advocacy Summit" where they demanded that the US Senate take immediate action on the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 810) to lift some of the Bush Administration's ill-founded and arbitrary funding restrictions of stem cell research. We are delighted that Senator Frist has heeded the call of patients, researchers and educators. While HR 810 will not remove all the obstacles to the funding of ethical and life-saving research, it is a major step in the right direction. This moment represents an important milestone for the broad and rapidly expanding 'Pro-Cures Coalition' movement, which will play a pivotal role in the electoral process in 2006 and 2008. Senator Frist has recognized both the political importance of the issue in the upcoming elections, and the views of a solid majority of Americans, who want to see this promising research go forward.

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act impacts 128 million Americans suffering from a host of incurable afflictions. We ask the Senate to expeditiously vote on the legislation, without amendments or false alternatives, which have been crafted to provide political cover for the foes of the research.

The Genetics Policy Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing stem cell research for the development of cures. For more information, please visit <http://www.genpol.org>.

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