



News From
DAVE WELDON

Florida's 15th District -- *Serving Brevard, Indian River, Osceola, and Polk Counties*

For Immediate Release
July 19, 2006

Contact: Kurt Heath, (202) 225-3671
kurt.heath@mail.house.gov

**Weldon Lauds Bush Veto of Bill Aimed at Increased Taxpayer Funding of
Destructive Human Embryo Experimentation**
Applauds Bush Signature of Bill Banning Human Fetus Farming

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Rep. Dave Weldon, M.D. (R-FL), a leading advocate of adult stem cell research, today said President Bush did the right thing in vetoing legislation (HR 810) that would have created additional incentives for the killing of human embryos for medical experimentation.

“Contrary to the campaign of misinformation by special interest groups and some lawmakers, embryonic stem cell research is both legal and well-funded. It’s also been an abysmal failure in producing medical treatments for humans suffering from disease,” said Weldon, noting that not one human being has been treated by a medical application derived solely from embryonic stem cells, and after 25 years of experiments with animal embryo stem cells, researchers don’t even have a good animal model for cures. “HR 810 is not only morally problematic, it’s a bad investment of taxpayer dollars. President Bush did the right thing today, and I urge my colleagues in the House to sustain his veto of this outdated and unnecessary legislation.”

Unlike embryonic stem cell research, research into adult stem cells has produced dozens of medical applications that have been used to treat thousands of human patients suffering from disease as diverse as lupus, multiple sclerosis, heart disease, and cancer. Moreover, it’s proving more promising than originally thought when the debate over embryonic stem cells first began.

Another measure, originally expected to be signed into law today, would have promoted promising research into alternative ways to derive embryo-like stem cells without destroying human embryos. That measure, known as the Alternatives Bill, was passed 100-0 in the Senate, but was temporarily derailed yesterday on a procedural hurdle in the House by Rep. Castle (R-DE) and Rep. Dianne DeGette (D-CO), the chief sponsors of HR. 810.

Last night, Weldon blasted Castle and DeGette for stonewalling the Alternatives Bill, saying that killing embryos for medical research has become an end in and of itself. “Otherwise, how do you explain voting against legislation that can get the stem cells they want without killing human embryos? They want to exclude all science except that which requires the killing of embryos. That is as ghastly a position as I’ve seen in all my years on the Hill. For heaven’s sake, even the Senate voted 100 to 0 for this bill including the likes of liberals like Sen. Boxer and Sen. Harkin.”

Separately, the President signed into law today legislation identical to that introduced by Weldon that would ban researchers from creating or implanting embryos into a human or animal womb for the purpose of later extracting the fetus and using its body parts or tissues for medical research.

###