

ethically produced human pluripotent stem cells. The order renames the registry—calls it this, the Pluripotent Stem Cell Registry—so it reflects what stem cells can do, instead of where they come from. The order invites scientists to work with the NIH so we can add new, ethically derived stem cell lines to the list of those eligible for Federal funding. I direct Secretary Leavitt to conduct an assessment of what resources will be necessary to support this important new research.

This science, that does not cross ethical lines, requires money. I believe it is a good use of taxpayers' money to spend money on this kind of science and research. And Michael is going to expedite it, that's what that means; it's a fancy paragraph for saying he's going to get it done. [*Laughter*]

With these steps, we'll encourage scientists to expand the frontiers of stem cell research. We want to encourage science. We want to say, we stand on your side in an ethically responsible way. Scientists have recently shown they have the ingenuity and skill to pursue the potential bene-

fits of pluripotent stem cell research. Here's two of them right here. That's why they're standing here; they have showed what's possible. I have confidence in their abilities to continue to develop new techniques. With our expanded support of non-destructive research methods, we'll make it more likely that these exciting advances continue to unfold.

Technical innovation in this difficult area is opening up new possibilities for progress without conflict or ethical controversy. So I invite policymakers and scientists to come together to speed our Nation toward the destination we all seek, where medical problems can be solved without compromising either the high aims of science or the sanctity of human life.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:39 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to S. 5, S. 30, and Executive Order 13435.

Message to the Senate Returning Without Approval the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007"

June 20, 2007

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S. 5, the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007."

Once again, the Congress has sent me legislation that would compel American taxpayers, for the first time in our history, to support the deliberate destruction of human embryos.

In 2001, I announced a policy to advance stem cell research in a way that is ambitious, ethical, and effective. I became the first President to make Federal funds available for embryonic stem cell research, and my policy did this in ways that would not

encourage the destruction of embryos. Since then, my Administration has made more than \$130 million available for research on stem cell lines derived from embryos that had already been destroyed. We have also provided more than \$3 billion for research on all forms of stem cells, including those from adult and other non-embryonic sources.

This careful approach is producing results. It has contributed to proven therapeutic treatments in thousands of patients with many different diseases. And it is opening the prospect of new discoveries that could transform lives. Researchers are

now developing promising new techniques that offer the potential to produce pluripotent stem cells, without having to destroy human life—for example, by re-programming adult cells to make them function like stem cells.

Technical innovation in this difficult area is opening up new possibilities for progress without conflict or ethical controversy. Researchers pursuing these kinds of ethically responsible advances deserve support, and there is legislation in the Congress to give them that support. Bills supporting alternative research methods achieved majority support last year in both the House and the Senate. Earlier this spring another bill supporting alternative research won overwhelming majority support in the Senate, and I call on House leaders to pass similar legislation that would authorize additional funds for ethical stem cell research. We

cannot lose the opportunity to conduct research that would give hope to those suffering from terrible diseases and help move our Nation beyond the controversies over embryo destruction. I invite policymakers and scientists to come together to solve medical problems without compromising either the high aims of science or the sanctity of human life.

S. 5, like the bill I vetoed last year, would overturn today's carefully balanced policy on stem cell research. Compelling American taxpayers to support the deliberate destruction of human embryos would be a grave mistake. I will not allow our Nation to cross this moral line. For that reason, I must veto this bill.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
June 20, 2007.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the House Republican Conference and an Exchange With Reporters

June 20, 2007

The President. I want to thank Congressmen Boehner, Blunt, and the other leaders of the House of Representatives for coming today. We just had a discussion about how we will work together to make sure that when we spend the taxpayers' money, we do so in a way that is fiscally sound and keeps our economy growing. I have submitted a budget to the Congress that sets priorities; no greater priority, by the way, than defending this homeland against attack. It's a budget that keeps taxes low so the economy continues to grow. And it's a budget that will balance—be in balance in 5 years.

Now, there's an alternative budget that has been presented in the Congress by the Democrats, which will increase spending by a significant amount, in our view, and will require tax raises in order to meet that

spending. We don't think that's right for the country. We don't think that's a good way to keep the economy strong. And we think we ought to be trusting taxpayers with their own money, so they can make choices with their money.

And so, to this end, the Members of Congress delivered me a letter—147 signatures on it—that said they will support me on any veto of a bill that is—exceeds the spending limits that we collectively think is necessary for the good of the country.

And I want to thank the Members for coming. I assured them that I'm going to work with them to represent the taxpayers and the working people of the United States, represent the small-business owners that are working hard to realize their dreams and increase their payrolls. And we will be effective by working together.