



TO BAN HUMAN CLONING

“As we seek to improve human life, we must always preserve human dignity. And therefore, we must prevent human cloning by stopping it before it starts.”

—President George W. Bush, April 10, 2002

The U.S. Position

The United States supports efforts to ban all forms of human cloning. Human cloning, for any purpose whatsoever, is unethical and morally reprehensible, and disregards respect for human dignity. At the 59th UN General Assembly, the United States will join a large group of nations co-sponsoring a resolution, proposed by Costa Rica, to draft an international convention against human cloning.

What is Human Cloning?

The process commonly referred to as cloning (Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer) results in the creation of a human embryo. In “reproductive” cloning, this embryo is implanted into a woman’s womb and allowed to grow. In what has been called “therapeutic,” “research,” and “experimental” cloning, the stem-cells are removed from the embryo, destroying this nascent human life

A ban that differentiates between human “reproductive” and “experimental” cloning would essentially authorize the creation of a human embryo for the purpose of killing it, thus elevating the value of research and experimentation above that of a human life. “Experimental” embryonic cloning would therefore turn nascent human life into a natural resource to be mined and exploited, eroding the sense of worth and dignity of the individual. Furthermore, human cloning risks denigrating the essential human dignity of women, since “experimental” cloning would treat women as resources for harvesting human eggs. A partial ban that prohibits “reproductive” cloning but permits “therapeutic,”

“research,” or “experimental” cloning is unacceptable to the United States and many other countries.

A Viable Alternative: Adult Stem-Cell Therapy

The United States fully supports continued research into the promising field of adult stem-cell therapy. Within the last few years, a wealth of published scientific reports has demonstrated that adult stem-cells—contained in tissues of the human body, and after birth in the umbilical cord and placenta—have the ability to transform into other tissue and cell types, and have been shown to be able to repair and regenerate damaged and diseased tissue. Published medical



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literature documents that adult stem-cells can be isolated from various non-embryonic sources, grown in culture, and used successfully in animal models to treat diseases that affect the heart, brain, and lungs. Adult stem-cells have already benefited hundreds of patients in clinical trials, for such conditions as heart damage,

Parkinson’s disease, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, and sickle-cell anemia. The potential for adult stem-cells to advance medicine and alleviate human suffering is enormous.

The Support of All Nations Is Needed

Consenting to human cloning would be a step toward a society in which human beings are grown for spare body parts and children are engineered to fit eugenic specification. We cannot allow human life to be devalued in this way. We urge all nations to prohibit any research, experimentation, development, or application that is aimed at human cloning.