

November 10, 2005

The Honorable Bill Frist
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Frist:

We are writing to ask that the Senate consider H.R. 2520, *The Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005*, sponsored by Representatives Smith (R-NJ) and Davis (D-AL). This important legislation was overwhelmingly supported by the U.S. House of Representatives and passed with 431 votes. It now awaits action in the Senate.

The Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005 authorizes \$79 million in federal funding to launch a cord blood inventory and research system, providing \$158 million for the reauthorization and expansion of the existing federal bone marrow transplant program. The bill also allows for the electronic collection and dissemination of donor data to provide a single access point for information for doctors and patients. This new system will also enable efficient collection and analysis of outcomes data. Cord blood and bone marrow stem cell treatments have been proven effective in combating over 65 different diseases including leukemia, sickle cell anemia, and osteoporosis.

It is vital that the Senate act upon this legislation as soon as possible. We cannot afford to continue to ignore the possibilities that this type of treatment could provide. A national cord blood bank would allow this time-tested technology to improve the health of thousands of Americans. We believe that it is imperative that the Senate take up this legislation and we solicit your support in seeing this bill move forward.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Daniel Lipinski, M.C.

Artur Davis, M.C.

Tim Ryan, M.C.

Marcy Kaptur, M.C.

Lincoln Davis, M.C.

Michael Doyle, M.C.

Jim Marshall, M.C.

Solomon Ortiz, M.C.

Charlie Melancon, M.C.

Marion Berry, M.C.

Jerry Costello, M.C.

November 10, 2005

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Reid:

We are writing to ask that the Senate consider H.R. 2520, *The Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005*, sponsored by Representatives Smith (R-NJ) and Davis (D-AL). This important legislation was overwhelmingly supported by the U.S. House of Representatives and passed with 431 votes. It now awaits action in the Senate.

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