



National Committee for a Human Life Amendment

Human Cloning Ban

In 2003 and 2004, NCHLA conducted a postcard campaign to ban human cloning. The postcards were directed to selected Members of the U.S. Senate. With the adjournment of the 108th Congress, that postcard campaign is concluded. However, an educational flier developed in conjunction with the campaign is useful as a general educational tool and is still available.

Educational Fliers

"Human Cloning: Assault on Life and Dignity" is a two-color, 5 1/2 by 8 1/2 inch educational flier for distribution in all states by churches and other organizations. Facts and arguments are marshaled concisely and crisply. Readers are urged to contact their two U.S. Senators. Helpful websites for additional information on cloning are listed. The following items are available by clicking on the "Related Information" button:

- formatted flier in both English and Spanish.
- unformatted text in English
- order form for educational fliers

The face that is used as a leitmotiv in the design of the various program materials is a photograph of a terra cotta sculpture by artist Robert Liberace. The formal credit:

Robert Liberace
Study of Mary, terra cotta sculpture
Private Collection
www.robertliberace.com

Legislation

105th Congress

In February 1997, Dr. Ian Wilmut at Edinburgh, Scotland's Roslin Institute announced the cloning of Dolly the sheep. This development raised concerns about human cloning. In 1997, measures to ban human cloning and permanently to ban the use of federal funds for human cloning research were introduced. The House held hearings on the funding ban and favorably reported a bill out of committee, though no further action was taken. The Dickey Amendment that bans funding research harmful to human embryos was amended to cover embryo research involving cloning.

In 1998, Sens. Chris Bond (R-MO) and Bill Frist (R-TN) introduced the Human Cloning Prohibition Act (S. 1601). This measure was brought directly to the Senate floor, but a February 11, 1998 vote to break a filibuster failed. Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) sponsored opposition bills (S. 1602 and S. 1611).

In 1998, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asserted its authority over human cloning. Its concerns would extend to questions of safety and efficacy. On March 23, 2001, the FDA sent letters to the Raelian sect and to a scientist, advising them that human cloning is subject to FDA regulation and enforcement.

107th Congress

In 2001, Reps. Dave Weldon (R-FL) and Bart Stupak (D-MI) introduced the Human Cloning Prohibition Act (H.R. 1644, revised as H.R. 2505). Rep. James Greenwood (R-PA) introduced an opposition bill (H.R. 2172, revised as H.R. 2608). Hearings were held. Subsequently, H.R. 2505 was marked up and favorably reported from committee. See H. Rept. 107-170 at: [thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/R?cp107:FLD010:@1\(hr170\):](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/R?cp107:FLD010:@1(hr170):). On July 31, 2001, the House approved H.R. 2505. This measure was then placed on the Senate calendar. No further action was taken.

In the Senate in 2001, Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS) introduced the Human Cloning Prohibition Act (S. 790, revised as S. 1899). Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced an opposition bill (S. 1758). Efforts by Sen. Brownback to move his bill resulted in an agreement that in the early months of 2002, there would be an opportunity for hearings and up or down votes on the issue.

Five days of hearings were held in the Senate in 2002. More opposition bills were introduced. The sponsors of S. 1758 joined with those of S. 1893 and introduced a third common bill, S. 2439; S. 2076 also was introduced.

In early June 2002, attempts to reach a unanimous consent agreement for Senate floor debate broke down. Thereafter, no further action was taken on the various pending bills.

On July 10, 2002, the President's Council on Bioethics presented to President Bush its report, *Human Cloning and Human Dignity: An Ethical Inquiry*. See: www.bioethics.gov/reports/cloningreport/index.html.

108th Congress

In 2003, Reps. Dave Weldon and Bart Stupak again introduced the Human Cloning Prohibition Act (H.R. 234, superceded by H.R. 534). Rep. Jim Greenwood (R-PA) introduced an opposition bill (H.R. 801). H.R. 534 was favorably reported from committee. See H. Rept. 108-018 at: [thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/R?cp108:FLD010:@1\(hr018\)](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/R?cp108:FLD010:@1(hr018)). On February 27, 2003, the House approved H.R. 534. Thereafter the measure was placed on the Senate calendar. By the end of 2004, no further action was taken on this bill.

Sens. Sam Brownback and Mary Landrieu (D-LA) introduced the Human Cloning Prohibition Act in the Senate (S. 245). Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Dianne Feinstein introduced an opposition bill (S. 303). Hearings were held. By the end of 2004, no further action was taken on either of these bills.

Science (February 2004) published a report of the first verified case of human cloning, which occurred in Seoul, South Korea.

Helpful Websites

Resources from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:
www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/bioethic

From Do No Harm: The Coalition of Americans for Research Ethics:
www.stemcellresearch.org

From Americans to Ban Cloning:
www.cloninginformation.org

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