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Following are comments from Senate Judiciary Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) on the subject of human cloning

“No doubt somewhere, some—such as the Raelians—are trying to make a name for themselves and are busy trying to apply the same techniques that gave us Dolly the Sheep to human beings. Frankly, I am not sure that human being would even be the correct term for such an individual heretofore unknown in nature.”

Senator Orrin Hatch

Feb. 5, 2002, Hatch press release

<http://www.senate.gov/~hatch/pressapp/record.cfm?id=180430>

But if it is the method of reproduction that matters, then wouldn't it be true that Dolly the Sheep really wasn't a sheep? If a cloned baby would not be “human” what would it be? Would the cloned baby not have civil rights? Would it be legitimate to clone even fetuses and babies for experimentation or slavery? Or, as Slate columnist William Saletan suggests, would it be all right to murder them: “The first cloned baby—Eve or whoever comes after her—won't be fertilized. If fertilization is a prerequisite to humanity, as Hatch and Feinstein suggest, that baby will never be human. You can press the pillow over her face and walk away” (posted 12/31/02).

“But in our attempt to ban human reproductive cloning, we should not close the door on a form of scientific research — nuclear transplantation — that has the potential of curing millions of debilitating and life-threatening diseases.”

Senator Orrin Hatch

Feb. 5, 2002, Hatch press release

<http://www.senate.gov/~hatch/index.cfm>

To clone an embryo for each person would require several dozen, perhaps hundred, eggs; to create cloned embryos for each of millions with diseases would require millions of eggs. Where would you obtain the eggs? Does Senator Hatch support women taking the risks of superovulatory drugs to “donate” their eggs for money?

“I would like to comment on the work of the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine in Norfolk, Virginia, which is creating embryos in order to conduct stem cell research. I find the work of this clinic extremely disturbing.”

Senator Orrin Hatch

July 17, 2001 Testimony before the Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources

Then how can Senator Hatch not find his own legislation “extremely disturbing,” as it specifically endorses “Creating embryos in order to conduct stem cell research?” (e.g. “It would seem, then, that -- for whatever reason for producing it – the initial product of somatic cell nuclear transfer is a living (one-celled) cloned human embryo,” (*Human Cloning and Human Dignity*, President's Council on Bioethics, 7/02).

