

April 22, 2002

The Honorable Tom Daschle  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Daschle:

News reports indicate that supporters of the current “clone and kill” bills – Feinstein/Kennedy, Harkin/Specter and Dorgan/Johnson -- finding themselves short of the votes they need to prevail, intend to merge and modify their bills, while keeping the basic provisions of their legislation intact. They plan to unveil this new bill soon and call it a “compromise.” It is, in fact, the opposite. The new bill certainly will not “compromise” on the basic issue of human cloning; rather, it will legitimize and institutionalize a new human cloning industry to patent, commercialize and commodify human life. According to various reports, it will continue to make it a crime to fail to ensure the death of any cloned human embryo – perhaps even imposing a legally enforceable deadline for each embryo’s destruction.

We stand with President Bush, who said last week that it would be a “mistake” for the Senate to pass a bill that allows any human lives to be created for the purposes of destruction. We stand with the bipartisan majority of the House of Representatives, which overwhelmingly defeated “clone and kill” legislation. We stand with the American people, who, by large margins, reject human cloning for medical research.

The Senate will soon make a choice: will it legitimize and provide a regulatory infrastructure for the human cloning industry, as the legislation to be introduced soon would do? Or will it ban all human cloning, as S. 1899, the Brownback-Landrieu Human Cloning Prohibition Act would do? Senator Daschle, the Senate’s decision is long overdue. It’s time for you to keep the promise you made to the American people last year, and allow an up-or-down vote on the only bill that really stops human cloning – S. 1899.

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