

It's back! We knew the New Jersey bill to promote embryonic stem cell research including cloning human embryos for that purpose wouldn't go away for good. Another bill has been introduced into the Senate and the Assembly. It is important that you contact your representatives and the Governor's office EVEN IF YOU HAVE DONE SO BEFORE. This time the coalition pushing the bill will be more organized and better prepared; so must we! Father Manning

New Jersey Catholic Conference

211 North Warren Street · Trenton, New Jersey 08618-4894
(609) 599-2110 · Fax (609) 392-3094
E-mail: info@njcathconf.com
Web: www.njcathconf.com

William F. Bolan, Jr., J.D.
Executive Director

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LEGISLATIVE ALERT

RE: S-1909/A-2840 (Human Stem Cell Research)

ISSUE: S-1909/A-2840, provides that the public policy of this State is to permit the conduct of research that involves the derivation and use of human embryonic stem cells, human embryonic germ cells and human adult stem cells from any source, including somatic cell nuclear transplantation.

OUR POSITION: The New Jersey Catholic opposes this bill. "Stem cell research" refers to research using stem cells that come from embryos or other sources, such as adult tissue, placentas, or umbilical cord blood. The only way to obtain embryonic stem cells, however, is to kill the living human embryo. Embryonic stem cells have not helped a single human patient, while adult stem cells and similar ethically acceptable alternatives have helped hundreds of thousands. We believe it is more important than ever to stand for the principle that government must not treat any living human being as research material, as a mere means for benefit to others. In short, we should not support research that relies on the destruction of some defenseless human beings for the possible benefit to others. S-1909/A-2840 is truly radical because it would allow a cloned living human being to be implanted into a uterus at the embryonic state and harvested for research and skilled at any time from the embryonic period through the ninth month of pregnancy

STATUS: S-1909 passed the Senate on December 16, 2002. The Assembly failed to pass it once before but there will be a major push to move it post election in the Assembly.

ACTION:

- 1. Contact your two Assembly members immediately and urge them to vote "NO" on this legislation and any amendments that may be offered. If you do not know who your Assembly members are, call the Office of Legislative Services at 1-800-792-8630 or go to the Legislature's webpage at <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>**
- 2. Contact Governor McGreevey's office at 609-292-6000 and ask for Constituent Relations or send him a fax at 609-292-3454 and tell him that you are opposed to this legislation**
- 3. It is critical that you make the above contacts even if you did so before.**