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for*

PENNSYLVANIA  
**PRO-LIFE**  
FEDERATION

December 13, 2007

*Tom, was  
sent to all pro-life  
caucus House &  
Senate  
members.  
I also call.  
Mary*

The Honorable Thomas Tangretti  
House Post Office  
State Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

- Re: 1) New Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Legislative/PAC Director  
2) Clarification of Confusion with Groups  
3) Breakthrough in Stem Cell Research**

Dear Representative Tangretti: *Tom*

I am pleased to inform you that Charlene Bashore, Esq. will take on the position of Legislative/PAC Director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation starting January 1, 2008. You will be able to reach Charlene at the Federation's state office--717-541-0034 or at [bashore@paprolife.org](mailto:bashore@paprolife.org).

I will continue to work with Charlene and with the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation in other capacities to help advance the pro-life cause in Pennsylvania. I have enjoyed working with you as Legislative/PAC Director for the Federation. Thank you for your commitment to the pro-life cause and for working to provide compassionate comprehensive help for both mothers and their babies through Pennsylvania's alternatives to abortion program, Real Alternatives, which has become a model for the nation.

Also, members of the pro-life caucus have asked me to clarify a situation that has caused confusion. I want to take this opportunity to let you know that a new "multi-issue" group that calls itself "The Pro-Life Coalition of PA" or "The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Coalition" is **not affiliated** with the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation.

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is Pennsylvania's affiliate to National Right to Life (NRLC) and is concerned with issues involving the taking of innocent human life from conception to natural death. We work with the leaders of the pro-life caucus—Reps. Katie True, Tom Tangretti, Jerry Stern and Rich Grucela-- on legislative issues relating to the protection of innocent human life.

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation serves as the state coordinating body for forty local pro-life chapters throughout the Commonwealth, represents tens of thousands of citizens, and is composed of people of different political persuasions, faiths, and economic, social and ethnic backgrounds. The Federation works through the legislative process, education, and political involvement to restore legal protection to those members of the human family threatened by abortion, infanticide, or euthanasia.

In addition, I wanted to take this opportunity to discuss the huge breakthrough in stem cell research in which scientists were able to induce plain skin cells to behave much like embryonic stem cells. Who would have thought that the *New York Times* headline about the discovery would read: "Man Who Helped Start Stem Cell War May End it" (Article attached).

Two separate research teams--scientists at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Kyoto in Japan--announced that they had reprogrammed ordinary human skin cells to behave like embryonic stem cells. Evidently, they had used the same approach for their simultaneous breakthrough.

Dr. Thompson's laboratory at the University of Wisconsin was one of the two labs to achieve the breakthrough. Ironically, it was Dr. Thompson's laboratory that was one of two that took stem cells from human embryos for the first time in 1998. The fact that the process of removing the stem cells actually kills the human embryo set off the national controversy. The ethical question was: "Should scientists destroy human embryos for scientific experimentation? And, of course, the scientific advances being made in regenerative medicine were being made using adult stem cells--not embryonic. More than 73 human conditions have been helped or cured using adult stem cells, zero using embryonic. (See [www.stemcellresearch.org](http://www.stemcellresearch.org))

In the *New York Times* article, Dr. Thompson states that more work remains, but he feels confident that the path ahead is clear. "Isn't it great to start a field and then end it," he said. This new discovery has been received with great hope for those suffering with disabilities.

Again, I want to thank you for your commitment to protecting innocent human life. I look forward to working with Charlene and with the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation in the coming year in other capacities for the protection of our most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,



Mary Believeau  
Legislative/PAC Director

Enclosure

OCT 27 2006



*Stem Cell  
research  
file*

October 11, 2006

The Honorable Thomas Tangretti  
State Capitol 328 Irvis Bldg.  
Harrisburg, PA 17210-2020

Dear Representative Tangretti,

As a former lawmaker I understand the vast amount of issues that you have to handle in rapid succession. One of the issues that was beginning to move to the fore front during my last year in public office was stem cell research.

I found this to be one of the most difficult issues that I had to work through. The reason is that there are many well intentioned people seeking treatment for various conditions that have been led to believe this is the silver bullet. In part that is true. Stem cell research holds great promise for the treatment of various medical conditions. But, whether intentional or unintentional all stem cell research has been lumped together, both embryonic and adult stem cell research.

Are all stem cells the same? Are Embryos human? Which type holds the greatest promise to your constituents? The reason for this letter is to help you answer those questions.

The Family Research Council has just produced a new resource on the subject of stem cell research entitled: "Stem Cells: Beyond Hype to Real Hope." This six minute video, enclosed in DVD format, addresses the common questions that people have about stem cells from the scientific and ethical perspectives. It is presented in a simple, straightforward manner that is easy to understand.

I hope you will take the time to watch this DVD, and show it to your friends and colleagues. We believe that the more people are informed with knowledge and truth, the better able they are to play their parts as responsible citizens in a democracy.

Sincerely,

Tony Perkins  
President

FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL

801 G STREET NW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001 • 202-393-2100 • 202-393-2134 fax • (800) 225-4008 order line • www.frc.org