## COMMITTEES

THOMAS A. TANGRETTI, MEMBER 105 STATION PLACE 101 EHALT STREET GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 15601 PHONE: (724) 834-6400 FAX: (724) 834-6799

328 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING HOUSE BOX 202020 HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020 PHONE: (717) 783-5963 FAX: (717) 772-9986



House of Representatives commonwealth of pennsylvania harrisburg APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ECONOMIC IMPACT & INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMERCE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FINANCIAL SERVICES & BANKING

CONSUMER AFFAIRS INSURANCE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION POLICY

September 14, 2005

Honorable Joseph F Markosek HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 32 East Wing

Dear Pro-Life Democrat:

The Policy Committee once again has scheduled hearings on stem cell research without asking for witnesses from the pro-life perspective. Representative Tigue and I have requested of Chairman Stetler that room be made on the schedule for our witnesses. As of this writing we have not heard back as to whether our request will be honored.

As you will remember the exact same thing happened to us at the hearings held in July in Pittsburgh. At least at that hearing we managed to get one person on the agenda, Dr. Ralph Capone, who was an expert witness for against destroying human embryos for experimentation.

*Please make every effort to be at the hearing on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The details of time and place on attached, as well as the witness list.* 

Sincerely,

Attachment:





CONTACT: James M. Dawes

E-Mail: jdawes@pahouse.net

Communications Director Democratic Policy Committee

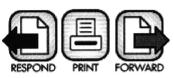
Phone: 717-705-2051 Fax: 717-772-9949

House Democratic Policy Committee

## NEWS RELEASE

State Rep. Stephen H. Stetler D-York Chairman, Democratic Policy Committee <u>www.pahouse.com/stetler</u>

<u>Hearing Host</u>: State Rep. Babette Josephs D-Philadelphia www.pahouse.com/josephs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## HDPC continues investigation of stem cell research

**PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 21** – The House Democratic Policy Committee held a public hearing today at the University of Pennsylvania to continue its investigation of stem cell research, according to Policy Committee Chairman Stephen H. Stetler, D-York.

Hosted by state Rep. Babette Josephs, D-Phila., the hearing featured testimony from Dr. Arthur Caplan, director of the Center of Bioethics and chairman of Penn's bioethics department; Dr. Stephen Emerson, a professor of medicine and division chief of the hematology-oncology division at Penn; Rebecca Bagley, deputy secretary for technology investment in the state Department of Community and Economic Development; David Smith, counsel from Pepper Hamilton LLP; Joy Pollock, chairperson of American affairs/domestic policy, Hadassah; and Dr. David Prentice, senior fellow for life sciences, Family Research Council.

"Today was HDPC's second hearing within the last two months on stem cell research and once again it was very educational," Stetler said. "Our committee is gaining a better understanding of all the issues surrounding this valuable research. I am excited about the economic development prospects and curing potential of this growing field in Pennsylvania."

Josephs added, "As a longtime advocate for stem cell research because of the medical and economic value it would bring to our Commonwealth, I am glad my colleagues were able to learn more about this momentous issue at today's hearing. I hope they will join my cause in making Pennsylvania a leader in stem cell research and high technology."

A legislative leader in advancing the issue of stem cell research in Pennsylvania, Josephs has introduced legislation (H.B. 864) that would authorize the research in the state.

"We must utilize our prestigious educational institutions to keep top stem cell researchers in Pennsylvania and attract more businesses to our state. My bill will help us do that," Josephs said.

HDPC held its first hearing on stem cell research at the University of Pittsburgh on Aug. 3.

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