

30 September 2006.

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600
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Re: Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT) and Related Amendment Bill 2006"

It is with great regret that the bill that is being put before the Senate has been turned into a fight between people who feel that being opposed to Embryonic Stem Cell research is in some way narrow minded or fundamentalist in thinking and those who claim the high ground to be progressive and wanting the best for our society.

There is already plenty of evidence that the present status quo is adequate to fulfil the requirements of science to further work in the area of Stem Cells. There is also strong evidence to support the idea that giving science an inch it will take a mile. Already, different research groups around the globe are making claims they have already pushed the boundaries in the area of cloning human children yet we in this country are told that we will be left behind by not pushing our own boundaries in this area of research. Hence the present proposed legislation.

I wish to add my objection to the bill, not only on the grounds that we have gone far enough in this area of research but once again a bill is being placed before the parliament, a body that is meant to hold life and the meaning of life sacred, but constantly shows scant regard to the well being of either its constituents or their welfare.

There are numerous reasons for objecting against this bill, foremost, that while the government and many of its politicians no longer hold to the 'founding members' beliefs of our parliament who based its powers and authority on their relationship with God, a large number of rank and file voters still do. Cloning has already proved to be a very dicey operation. It requires hybridisation, it treats the essence of life as a commodity, it is using scant resources in an area of research that has very dubious results, and it plays mind games with terminology such as 'Therapeutic Cloning' when it is just cloning to list a few.

Perhaps my greatest fear is that four years ago the Federal Parliament passed a bill against cloning which now it is reneging on and hiding behind new terminology and claiming the high moral ground. Who can we trust here? As politicians are adjudged the least trustworthy group of people in our society, and as there is no new scientific research of any value to suggest that embryonic stem cell research is either better than adult stem cell work or has even achieved anything near the outlandish claims that are being made, where to next if this legislation is passed? We already have a well renowned Senator admitting he lied frequently as a politician and saw nothing wrong with doing so, and the Beatty government removing legislation regarding lying in parliament, so what can we expect in the future? The promises made today on 'therapeutic' will become what in four years time? Worse we are told the vote will be a conscience vote. Who is kidding whom?

Let it be said that I for one stand against this thinly veiled attempt to usurp a position of conscience and at least note that as one who has a conscience dedicated to honour life and the Creator who made it, that I need to stand against legislation that takes into its hand the power that our forefathers never envisaged.

I remain, your humble servant,

Peter Turner