Committee Secretary,
Community Affairs Committee,
Department of the Senate,
P.O. Box 6100,
Parliament House,
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my concerns at the proposing of bills to implement the recommendations of the Lockhart Report on human cloning.

As the Parliament voted unanimously in 2002 to ban human cloning, I do not understand why there is a need to vote again on this same issue.

Cloning creates a living human embryo. It is created for research only, and its destruction is intended. I do not believe that life should be created and then destroyed to benefit another life.

No matter how the embryo is made, it is still a living creature, and could be brought to birth. Whether an embryo is intended for 'reproductive cloning' or 'therapeutic cloning', it is still cloned by the same standard technique of SCNT.

Furthermore I do not believe it is right to harvest 100's of eggs, commercialise women's ovaries, and risk their health, or to use animal eggs to make a human-animal hybrid. This is ethically wrong.

Embryonic stem cells have not been used in treating any conditions while stem cells from adult tissue and from umbilical cord blood are already used in 72 human conditions. If these are already being used, what is the need to try something new which is unproved? and also unethical?

Surely it is also unnecessary to use funds for research, when it is not known if the benefits will be there, and when there are already known benefits from using adult stem cells and umbilical cord blood stem cells. Surely it is better to continue research into what is already benefitting others.

Yours sincerely,

Felicity Field

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- 4 OCT 2006
Senate Community Affairs Committee