

Dear Senators,

We write to you, concerned about the tabling of the *Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction and the Regulation of Human Embryo Research Amendment Bill 2006*. We understand that this Bill, if passed, would put into practice the recommendations of the Lockhart Committee, to which we are strongly opposed.

The Bill would seek to define an embryo as beginning about sixteen hours after fertilisation. Science and reason have long advised that this is completely false, and that an embryo (human life) begins at the very instant of fertilisation. This Bill can never alter the scientific facts and, change the terminology though it may, it can never change the immorality of experimentation on the unborn.

In the past, we have seen the evil effects of concessions made against human life. This time, it is claimed that embryonic research may help to cure such illnesses as diabetes and Alzheimer's. As wonderful as a cure for these illnesses would be, there is no evidence to suggest that embryonic stem cell research has ever or will ever contribute to finding such cures. The Bill would suggest that we take an innocent human life, call it something less than human, and use it for the alleged benefit of others. Which minority group will be next? Today the unborn, tomorrow the elderly or the terminally ill.

We ask you to please do the right thing and vote against this Bill.

Yours sincerely,

James and Eva Van Strijp