

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 7

Introduced by Assembly Member Bass

February 18, 2009

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 7—Relative to stem cell research.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 7, as introduced, Bass. Stem cell research: federal legislation.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to enact, as expeditiously as possible, legislation that embodies the policies advanced in the federal Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, More than seven million California voters approved
2 Proposition 71, which authorized the issuance of \$3 billion in
3 bonds to support and advance stem cell research and regenerative
4 medicine under the highest ethical and medical standards for the
5 discovery and development of cures, therapies, diagnostics, and
6 research technologies to relieve human suffering from chronic
7 disease and injury; and
8 WHEREAS, Millions of Americans suffer from chronic diseases
9 and injuries that could one day benefit from the stem cell research
10 that is being conducted in California; and
11 WHEREAS, California has already committed more than \$600
12 million for research and facilities grants to build a platform for
13 stem cell research in California; and
14 WHEREAS, Stem cell research has already yielded great
15 progress, including a request for approval of a Phase 1 clinical

1 trial for the use of embryonic stem cells to treat acute paralysis;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In the next 24 to 48 months, researchers expect
4 that other therapies derived from stem cells may be ready for
5 clinical trials to treat a range of diseases, including dry macular
6 degeneration, Batten Disease, and heart disease; and

7 WHEREAS, Federal legislation and an executive order signed
8 by President Bush have stymied the National Institutes of Health
9 from actively pursuing the opportunities afforded by human
10 embryonic stem cell research; and

11 WHEREAS, The active participation of the National Institutes
12 of Health is critical to advancing the field of stem cell research;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, President Obama has pledged to lift the executive
15 order that limits funding of human embryonic stem cell research
16 to those stem cell lines in existence in 2001; and

17 WHEREAS, The leadership of the United States House of
18 Representatives and the United States Senate have announced their
19 intention to reintroduce legislation that would authorize federal
20 funding of human embryonic stem cell research; and

21 WHEREAS, The California Legislature is committed to working
22 with the Congress of the United States to advance stem cell
23 research consistent with the highest medical and ethical standards
24 and to prohibit human reproductive cloning; and

25 WHEREAS, The California Legislature supports the relaxation
26 of federal restrictions on embryonic stem cell research conducted
27 consistent with the highest medical and ethical standards
28 recommended by the National Academy of Sciences; and

29 WHEREAS, H.R. 3 (DeGette/Castle) and S. 5
30 (Reid/Harkin/Specter) of the 110th Congress, an act titled the Stem
31 Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, would have: (a) amended
32 the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health
33 and Human Services to conduct and support research that utilizes
34 human embryonic stem cells, regardless of the date on which the
35 stem cells were derived from a human embryo, and (b) limited
36 that research to stem cells that meet the following ethical
37 requirements: (1) the stem cells were derived from human embryos
38 donated from in vitro fertilization clinics for the purpose of fertility
39 treatment and were in excess of the needs of the individuals seeking
40 such treatment; (2) the embryos would never be implanted in a

1 woman and would otherwise be discarded; and (3) the individuals
2 donate the embryos with written informed consent and receive no
3 financial or other inducement; and

4 WHEREAS, H.R. 3 of the 110th Congress (Castle/DeGette),
5 which had 218 cosponsors, and S. 471 of the 109th Congress
6 (Specter/Harkin), which had 37 cosponsors, represented a bipartisan
7 effort to advance stem cell research in an ethical and responsible
8 manner; and

9 WHEREAS, H.R. 810 of the 109th Congress (Castle/DeGette)
10 and S. 5 of the 110th Congress (Reid/Harkin/Specter) would have
11 expanded the number of stem cell lines available to federally
12 funded researchers and would complement the critical work that
13 is being funded in California; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
15 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature supports the legislative
16 intent of the federal Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act and
17 legislation that embodies the policies advanced in that act and calls
18 on the Congress of the United States to enact those policies as
19 expeditiously as possible; and be it further

20 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
21 of this resolution to the President and Congress of the United
22 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each
23 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
24 United States.