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The Candidates on Stem Cell Research



Hillary Clinton

An outspoken supporter of stem cell research, Clinton cosponsored the [Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act](#) of 2005. President Bush vetoed the bill, which would have allowed federal financing of stem cell research on new embryonic stem cell lines derived from discarded human embryos originally created for fertility treatments. She has [called](#) the ethics of stem cell research "a delicate balancing act."



John Edwards

Edwards favors expanding federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. He [said](#) during the 2004 presidential campaign that with such research, "people like [actor] Christopher Reeve will get up out of that wheelchair and walk again." Bill Frist, a physician who was then Senate Majority Leader, said the comment perpetuated false hope about the potential of stem cell research.



Rudolph Giuliani

Giuliani supports loosening restrictions on federal funding of embryonic stem cell research and generally broadening such research.



Mike Gravel

Gravel supports stem cell research as an important advance in health care. In a June 2006 interview for a blog, Gravel compared [stem cell research](#) to research on human cadavers, which he says was once taboo but has yielded important discoveries. He says the government should not limit the advancement of science in the area of regenerative medicine, which includes embryonic stem cell research.



Mike Huckabee

Huckabee supports research on existing stem cell lines but [does not believe](#) in "creating life for the sole purpose of destroying it." He says that embryonic stem cell research may not be necessary "because recent discoveries have shown that stem cells from the umbilical cord may in fact be as useful as the embryonic stem cells that were previously created."



Duncan Hunter

Hunter supports the use of adult stem cells, harvested without destroying human embryos, as integral to the pursuit of regenerative treatments and cures for disease. He opposes the use of embryonic stem cell lines for research. He voted against the proposed [Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005](#), which would have expanded the stem cell lines eligible for federal funding for research.



Alan Keyes

Keyes [opposes](#) embryonic stem cell research. He argues that using embryos for stem cell research violates the equal rights that God grants all humans. "If we are enjoined to respect human life, then we must respect that life at every stage, from conception onward ... No medical advance, and certainly no material profit, justifies denying the claim to humanity of the embryonic human person," he said.



Dennis Kucinich

Kucinich is a [co-sponsor](#) of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, which would lift restrictions on federal funds for embryonic stem cell research. He also [voted for](#) the 2006 version of the act, which was eventually vetoed by President Bush.



John McCain

McCain opposes embryonic stem cell research that uses cloned human embryos, but supports research using human embryos left over from fertility treatments. In 2006, McCain [supported](#) a trio of Senate bills designed to increase federal funding for adult stem cell research, ban the creation of embryos for research and offer federal support for research using embryos slated for destruction by fertility clinics.



Barack Obama

Obama [supports](#) relaxing federal restrictions on embryonic stem cell research. He voted for the [Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005](#), which was vetoed by President Bush. The bill would have allowed federal funding to be used for research on stem cell lines obtained from discarded human embryos originally created for fertility treatments.



Ron Paul

Paul backed President Bush's veto of congressional legislation to expand federal funding for non-embryonic stem cell research, [saying](#) he doesn't oppose such research but objects to federal funding for it. The founding fathers, Paul also wrote, "intended to keep issues such as embryonic stem cell research entirely out of Washington's hands."



W. Mitt Romney

Romney [opposes](#) stem cell research that uses cloned human embryos, but supports research using human embryos left over from fertility treatments. He also believes that embryonic stem cell research should not be funded by the government. Prior to 2005, Romney broadly supported research on embryonic stem cells. He

traces the change in his stance to an epiphany during meetings with stem cell researchers.



**Fred
Thompson**

Thompson [told](#) the National Right to Life Conference in June 2007 that he supports adult stem-cell research, but not "stem-cell research where embryos of unborn children are destroyed." He said, "It looks to me like there is a lot of promising developments as far as adult stem-cell research is concerned anyway and we don't need to go down that other road."
