

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, May 27, 2008

Contact: Rep. Andy Meisner
Phone: (517) 373-0478

MEISNER PASSES STEM CELL BATON TO BALLOT INITIATIVE
Failed House vote signals need for people to take up the cause

LANSING – State Representative Andy Meisner (D-Oakland County), Chairman of the House Commerce Committee, issued the following statement in response to the Michigan House of Representatives vote on his stem cell research legislation:

"For the first time in years, a vote on the critical issue of stem cell research has taken place in the Michigan House of Representatives.

In a vote that resulted in 41 "yes" votes and more "no" votes, the Michigan House refused to do what an overwhelming majority of Michigan citizens strongly prefer: to ease Michigan's restrictions on ethical and transparent stem cell research.

With the Legislature showing its unwillingness to act, the work of making potentially life saving cures and treatments available to Michigan citizens will now be in the hands of those citizens -- as this issue is presented as a ballot question during this year's November general election.

I am asking the thousands of people across Michigan who have supported my legislation to continue their advocacy by getting involved in the grassroots campaign to make the change our Legislature refuses to make. We must talk to our friends, neighbors and loved ones, letting them know that the future is in our hands.

Together, this fall, we can finish the job that must be finished for the benefit of our sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, and brothers and sisters who are counting on us to do the right thing."

###