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### **Gov. Doyle: Doyle, nine other governors urge passage of critical stem cell legislation**

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*Says President Bush is Out of Touch, Stands in the Way of Promising Research*

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle and nine other Governors today sent a letter to members of the United States Senate urging them to vote to lift President Bush's restrictions on embryonic stem cell research and pass Senate Bill 5 - the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007. Governors from Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, New Mexico, New York, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, and Pennsylvania joined Governor Doyle in calling for passage of this legislation.

"Embryonic stem cell research holds the potential to cure some of the oldest and deadliest diseases - from Parkinson's to Alzheimer's to multiple sclerosis," Governor Doyle said in the letter. "President Bush's restrictions have delayed that research for far too long. Once again, Congress has a critical responsibility this week to do the right thing so that scientists can unlock cures to diseases we have long thought to be incurable."

In January, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 3, the companion to Senate Bill 5, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, with strong bipartisan support. Last session identical legislation passed both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support, yet President Bush vetoed it.

"The President is severely out of touch on this issue," Governor Doyle said in the letter. "Every day, thousands of families in our states struggle as a loved one suffers from juvenile diabetes, spinal cord injuries or other conditions that might be cured if the President's restrictions are lifted. For over five years, these families have been forced to wait as the Bush policy has obstructed this vital research."

Since taking office, Governor Doyle has worked tirelessly to support groundbreaking research conducted in Wisconsin and maintain our state's competitive edge over other states. In 2005, Governor Doyle launched a comprehensive public-private \$750 million strategy to develop stem cell research and biotechnology in Wisconsin. The centerpiece of this effort is the Institutes for Discovery - set to break ground on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus next year. The institutes will feature public and private research facilities for interdisciplinary research and greater collaboration with industry. Additionally, Wisconsin's WiCell was selected as the nation's first and only National Stem Cell Bank by the National Institutes of Health in 2005.

By overturning President Bush's policy, Congress will allow new federal investments in lifesaving research and provide new hope to families around the world suffering from terrible diseases.

Read a copy of Governor Doyle's letter to U.S. Senators: <http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=10987>



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