

January 13, 2003

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senate
476 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Clinton:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the New York Biotechnology to express our support of *The Human Cloning Ban and Stem Cell Research Protection Act of 2003*, to be introduced by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA), and Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) on January 15, 2003.

This legislation protects a very valuable type of research called nuclear transfer (therapeutic cloning). Nuclear transfer involves removing the nucleus of an egg, replacing it with the material from the nucleus of a "somatic cell" (a skin, heart, nerve, or any non-germ cell), and stimulating this cell to begin dividing. The egg is never fertilized by sperm. The sole purpose of this technology is to develop treatments for disease. In contrast, human cloning is unsafe and the prospect of cloning a human being raises profound moral, religious and bioethical concerns.

The New York Biotechnology Association is a not-for-profit trade association, representing over 260 member companies in the biotechnology industry in New York State, it's world-class research institutions, and the professional service providers who support the industry and its continued vitality and growth. Stem cell research and therapeutic cloning are vital areas of biomedical research that show great promise as therapies for spinal cord injury, Alzheimer's disease, ALS, diabetes, various cancers, stroke and Parkinson's disease. Prohibiting its use severely limits the prospects for new discover, and subsequently limits the growth of New York's biotechnology industry.

NYBA believes this new legislation strikes the right balance between the criminalization of human cloning and the institution of oversight measures for the use of therapeutic cloning so that the pace of research can continue safely and responsibly.

I respectfully ask that you to continue to advocate for patient's rights by supporting *The Human Cloning Ban and Stem Cell Research Protection Act of 2003*.

Sincerely,

The New York Biotechnology Association