

*The New York Biotechnology Association*  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Sheldon Silver Announces New York State Assembly Passage of Therapeutic Stem Cell Legislation**

Speaker of the New York State Assembly Sheldon Silver announced yesterday that legislation passed in the Assembly to allow stem cell research in the State, while calling for a ban on human reproductive cloning. The legislation, A02649, is named the Reproductive Cloning Prohibition and Research Protection Act. In his remarks at an Albany conference on biomedical issues, Speaker Silver commented, " The people's house of the New York Legislature is lending its voice for support of those in the U.S. Senate to alleviate the suffering and restrictive lives of 100 million Americans." He added, "Medical research is welcome here, bring your research to New York."

This legislation declares that it is in the public interest to develop potential benefits of stem cell research and therapeutic cloning, or somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT). The legislation also bans reproductive cloning and sets penalties for violations. In addition, it establishes a legislative commission on human cloning to monitor activities and provide oversight.

The Speaker stressed in his comments that stem cell research and SCNT offer immense promise for developing new medical therapies for these debilitating diseases and a critical means to explore fundamental questions of biology. These vital areas of research could lead to unprecedented treatments and potential cures for diabetes, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, and other diseases.

Present at the announcement were representatives from patient advocacy groups, researchers, and members of the New York Assembly. NYBA Executive Director Karin Duncker, who participated at the Speaker's press conference commented, "we are very pleased that Speaker Silver is keeping patient's concerns in mind as he proceeds in analyzing this very complicated issue."

The New York Biotechnology Association (NYBA) is a non-profit membership trade association whose mission is to promote the growth and development of the biotechnology industry in New York State. For more information visit the website at [www.nyba.org](http://www.nyba.org).