

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-05

**A RESOLUTION OF THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS’
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT HR 3 (DEGETTE/CASTLE), S 5
(REID/HARKIN/SPECTER)**

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is currently considering legislation that could have an effect on the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine and on stem cell research in the United States;

WHEREAS, the Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee, the governing board of the CIRM, is committed to working with the United States Congress to advance stem cell research consistent with the highest medical and ethical standards, to prohibit human reproductive cloning, and to permit somatic cell nuclear transfer;

WHEREAS, the Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee supports the relaxation of federal restrictions on embryonic stem cell research, conducted consistent with the highest medical and ethical standards;

WHEREAS, HR 3 (DeGette/Castle) and S 5 (Reid/Harkin/Specter), titled “Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007,” would: (1) amend the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct and support research that utilizes human embryonic stem cells, regardless of the date on which the stem cells were derived from a human embryo, and (2) limit such research to stem cells that meet the following ethical requirements: (a) the stem cells were derived from human embryos donated from in vitro fertilization clinics for the purpose of fertility treatment and were in excess of the needs of the individuals seeking such treatment; (b) the embryos would never be implanted in a woman and would otherwise be discarded; and (c) such individuals donate the embryos with written informed consent and receive no financial or other inducements;

WHEREAS, HR 3 (Castle/DeGette), with 218 cosponsors, and S 471 (Specter/Harkin), with 37 cosponsors, represent a bipartisan effort to advance stem cell research in an ethical and responsible manner;

WHEREAS, HR 810 (Castle/DeGette) and S 5 (Reid/Harkin/Specter) would expand the number of stem cell lines available to federally-funded researchers and would complement the critical work that will be funded by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine;

WHEREAS, in August 2005, the Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee unanimously voted to oppose any attempt to prohibit the process of somatic cell nuclear transfer, and reaffirmed its position to support federal legislation to prohibit human reproductive cloning consistent with provisions in Proposition 71;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee supports HR 3 (DeGette/Castle) and S 5 (Reid/Harkin/Specter) or any successor legislation that embodies the policies advanced in HR 3 and S 5.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Date Approved: _____

Signed: _____
Chair, Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee