

On April 22 we forwarded the press release of Cardinal Justin Rigali, Chairman of the Pro-Life Activities Committee, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), criticizing the draft guidelines for destructive stem cell research published by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

A full campaign is underway by the USCCB urging everyone to write to their U.S. Senators and Congressman opposing the use of federal funds for stem cell research that requires destroying live human embryos, and to contact NIH.

Calling the guidelines "the first step," Representatives Diana DeGette (CO) and Michael Castle (DE) intend to move forward with broader legislation to "promote all forms of ethical stem cell research," which in their view includes cloning and the creation of embryos solely to destroy them.

Contacting the National Institutes of Health (NIH):

NIH should be contacted opposing their draft guidelines. **Comments to NIH must be received by them by May 26.**

Messages to NIH may be submitted online at www.nihoerextra.nih.gov/stem_cells/add.htm or mailed to: NIH Stem Cell Guidelines, MSC 7997, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892-7997.

Message to NIH: "I am opposed to your draft guidelines for embryonic stem cell research, which force me as a taxpayer to subsidize research requiring the destruction of innocent human life. Support should be directed to stem cell research and treatments that harm no one and are already producing good results. In no case should government support be extended to human cloning or other morally reprehensible creation of human embryos for research purposes."

Contacting U.S. Senators and Congressman:

Messages may be sent by U.S. Mail, FAX letter, phone, or e-mail. Full contact information may be found on Members' web sites: www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.

To call the U.S. Capitol in Washington: 212-224-3121 or 1-800-828-0498 and ask for Senator or Congressman by name. District offices may also be contacted.

embryonic stem cell research or any form of human cloning. Instead please support adult stem cell research, which is ethically sound, harms no one, and is already producing treatments."

Contact with NIH, Senators and Congressman may also be made through the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (NCHLA) website. Go to www.nchla.org/stemcell.

Much information on stem cell research is available on the USCCB and NCHLA websites:

- www.nchla.org/docdisplay.asp?ID=245
- www.usccb.org/stemcellcampaign (Article and video: "Oppose Destructive Stem Cell Research")
- www.stemcellresearch.org
- www.nchla.org/issues.asp?ID=6

This is a lengthy communication, but extremely important. Please communicate with your courts and

members ASAP.

Thanks to everyone who responds -- respond as an individual, not as a Catholic Daughter.

Helen Johnson, Chair
National Legislative Committee
CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS
Pre-approved: Libby Ramirez, National Regent