

Mahoney Responds to President's Veto of Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act

(June 20, 2007)

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) today joined Congresswoman Diana DeGette (CO-01), Congressman Rahm Emanuel (IL-05), Congressman Ron Klein (FL-22) and others in responding to the President's veto of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.

Transcript of Congressman Mahoney's Remarks:

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Thank you Ron. I'm always proud to stand in front of my freshman colleagues. And Diane Thank you so much for your leadership; and Ron, on this issue. This is the second time since I've gotten to Congress where I have had to stand at a press conference under these circumstances. And watching the President's presentation a few minutes ago was a moral outrage.

You know, America is a country of innovation. We are a country of cutting edge science. We go to work every day to try and find common sense solutions to give people hope. And in my district, which is people say, "a conservative district." They say, "it's a district that is a Republican district." I can tell you that in my campaign when the President vetoed embryonic-stem cell research the first time there was not one issue that got a greater outrage than this issue.

The president's veto of this ethical legislation is political pandering, at its worst. Because it is and it does use the ethical use of embryos that are being destroyed, and instead of destroying them we can use them to help save lives. You know, everybody up here knows somebody. I know lots of people in my district. But the one person that stands out is Dr. John Geake.

Dr. Geake became a paraplegic in a motorcycle accident. Dr. Geake lives in Glades County. Glades County is the poorest county in the state of Florida. It's a county about half the size of the state of Connecticut. And until Dr. Geake went back to work, they didn't even have a single doctor. I can tell you that Dr. Geake prays every night that this bill was going to be passed. He contacted me, he called me, he wanted to make sure we could do everything possible to make this happen.

You know Mr. President, America is not going to be fooled by your empty promises. What he is offering today is just toothless. And what really need in this country, Mr. President, is real leadership on this issue, and we need it now.

And we are going to keep, in this Congress, sending you embryonic stem cell research legislation that is ethical and responsible. And finally, we are going to get it passed, whether you are President, or we have a Democratic President

sitting in that chair. But we are committed to making this happen because we came to Congress to make a change and this is exactly the kind of change that the people in Florida's 16th Congressional District want and expect from me.

Thank you very much.

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