

**eSalt Volume 6 Issue 15 2005**

Southern Baptist  
Historical Library & Archives  
Nashville, TN



SEP 06 2005

Bringing you **IMPORTANT** news from our nation's capital

Volume 6 Issue 15 2005

A publication of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission  
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A **For Faith & Family** Ministry Partner

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Regenerative medicine—the replacement of defective or diseased human tissue with healthy new tissue derived from stem cells—has moved quickly over the past decade from hopeful speculation to some early clinical successes. The potential this has to heal chronic debilitating diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, and Parkinson's disease, and serious injuries, such as spinal cord injuries, could result in a great blessing to humankind since these types of diseases and injuries are among the leading causes of death and disability in the industrialized world.

But, while affirming the promise this research has for good, we object strongly to the notion that pursuing cures for some ever justifies intentionally destroying other human lives to achieve those cures. Thus, while we embrace the experimental research and therapeutic use of adult stem cells, we reject embryo-destructive research or therapy.

Stem cells are the unspecialized "master cells" of the body. They are able to produce all of the other types of cells (skin, brain, muscle, etc.). Human embryos have been promoted by some as an excellent source of stem cells. Nevertheless, a human embryo is a human life, no matter his or her age, manner of conception (natural conception, in vitro fertilization, or cloning), or location (uterus, test tube, or Petri dish). Embryonic stem cells can be obtained only at the cost of ending these innocent human lives. We cannot accept the destruction of these young and defenseless humans. It is incumbent on a just society to protect the lives of these little ones and to search for alternative sources of stem cells.

**Dr. Richard Land**  
**President, SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission**

Something new has been added to our Web site! Dr. Land's articles in the original print version of Salt (1991-1999) are now available in the Publications section. You may access them by clicking [here](#). Also in the Publications section you will find Dr. Land's older Light magazine articles (1989-1996). You may access them by clicking [here](#).

**Congress to return Sept. 6 after long recess** Numerous bills on which the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has taken positions await action when Congress reconvenes Sept. 6 after a five-week recess. Here are some of those measures...

**Bills related to 'life' issues await Senate action**

- [Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act \(S. 471/H.R. 810\)](#)
- [Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act \(H.R. 2520\)](#)
- [Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act \(H.R. 748\)](#)
- [Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act \(S. 51/H.R. 356\)](#)
- [RU 486 Suspension and Review Act \(S. 511/H.R. 1079\)](#)
- [Human Cloning Prohibition Act \(S. 658/H.R. 1357\)](#)
- [Prenatally Diagnosed Condition Awareness Act \(S. 609/H.R. 1353\)](#)
- [Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act \(S. 306/H.R. 1227\)](#)

**Senate vote lacking on increased indecency fines—Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act (S. 193/H.R. 310)** – The House voted 389-38 for this legislation, which would dramatically increase fines for indecency on radio and television broadcasts.

**Democracy promotion awaits Senate vote—ADVANCE Democracy Act (S. 516/H.R. 1133)** – The Advance Democratic Values, Address Non-democratic Countries and Enhance (ADVANCE) Democracy Act would confirm that the promotion of freedom and human rights is an essential ingredient of America's foreign policy.

**No action yet on marriage amendment—Marriage Protection Amendment (S.J. Res 1/H.J. Res 39)** – This constitutional amendment, which has been endorsed by President Bush but has yet to receive a vote this year, would define marriage as the "union of a man and a woman."

**Trafficking bill awaits votes in both houses—End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act (S. 937/H.R. 2012)** – Congress has yet to act on this bill, which is designed to combat domestic sex trafficking by targeting the demand side of the illicit trade.

**Underage drinking proposal awaits action—Sober Truth on Preventing (STOP) Underage Drinking Act (S. 408/H.R. 864)** – This proposal, which neither the Senate nor House has voted on, is designed to reduce alcohol consumption by minors.

**No votes yet on parental rights bill—Parents Right to Know Act (S. 1279/H.R. 3011)** – The legislation, which has not been voted on by Congress, bars the funding of family planning programs that distribute contraceptives to underage children without parental consent.

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For information on **Bible-based resources** useful for educating your family on the moral and ethical issues of our day and for engaging the culture, such as our informative Culture Response Kit, contact the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission at (800) 475-9127 or visit our online store. Click on the Family Bookstore logo in the column at right near top of page.

### Congress to return Sept. 6 after long recess

Numerous bills on which the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has taken positions await action when Congress reconvenes Sept. 6 after a five-week recess. Here are some of those measures. The ERLC position is noted in bold face caps after each one. You may contact your senators and representative to express your positions by calling the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or by emailing them through the ERLC web site, [www.faithandfamily.com](http://www.faithandfamily.com).

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### Bills related to 'life' issues await Senate action

- **Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (S. 471/H.R. 810)** – The Senate is expected to vote after it reconvenes on this bill that would provide federal funds for stem cell research that destroys embryos. The House of Representatives approved H.R. 810 in a 238-194 vote. President Bush has promised to veto it. Sen. Arlen Specter, R.-Pa., says there will be enough votes in the Senate to override a veto, but House supporters are about 50 votes short of the two-thirds majority required for an override. The bill would liberalize Bush's stem-cell policy and permit funding for research on embryos that are stored at in vitro fertilization clinics. The President's rule, announced in August 2001, allows funding for research only on embryonic stem cell lines already in existence prior to his institution of the policy. **The ERLC OPPOSES this act.**
- **Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act (H.R. 2520)** – The House voted 431-1 for this pro-life measure, but the Senate has failed to act on it. The bill would authorize \$79 million over five years for the collection, testing and storage of stem cells from umbilical cord blood. While embryonic stem cells have yet to produce therapies in human beings, non-embryonic stem cells—such as those in cord blood—have provided treatments for at least 65 maladies, including spinal cord injuries, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, multiple sclerosis and sickle cell anemia. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**
- **Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (H.R. 748)** – The House passed this pro-life, pro-family bill by a 270-157 vote. A similar Senate bill, the Child Custody Protection Act (S. 8), has not received a vote. This legislation would outlaw the transportation of a minor by a non-parental adult to another state for an abortion when the girl's home state requires parental notification or consent. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**
- **Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act (S. 51/H.R. 356)** – Neither house has voted on this effort to make certain women are able to receive information about the pain their unborn children will experience if they undergo late-term abortions. The bill would require an abortion doctor to provide a woman at least 20 weeks pregnant with scientific evidence about the severe pain her unborn child would experience during the procedure. If the woman still decides to have an abortion, the doctor would have to offer anesthesia for her unborn baby in order to reduce his pain. NARAL Pro-choice America, one of the country's leading abortion-rights organizations, withdrew its opposition to the legislation earlier this year. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**
- **RU 486 Suspension and Review Act (S. 511/H.R. 1079)** – Congress also has not acted on this legislation, which would halt sale of the infamous French abortion drug while the U.S. comptroller general reviews the process by which the Food and Drug Administration approved it. RU 486, or mifepristone, is used as the first part of a process normally occurring in the first seven weeks of pregnancy. That initial action causes the lining of the uterus to release the embryonic child. A second drug, known as misoprostol, is taken two days after mifepristone and causes the uterus to contract, expelling the baby. Since the FDA approved the sale of RU 486 in 2000, at least five women in North America have died after using the two-step regimen. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**
- **Human Cloning Prohibition Act (S. 658/H.R. 1357)** – This proposal would ban cloning for both reproductive and research purposes. Other measures labeled as cloning bans would not prohibit the cloning of embryos for experimentation. In two previous Congresses, the House has approved the bill without the Senate acting on it. Neither house has voted on the legislation this year. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**
- **Prenatally Diagnosed Condition Awareness Act (S. 609/H.R. 1353)** – This bill, which has yet to be acted on, would call on healthcare providers who announce a positive test for Down syndrome or another condition to pregnant women to refer them to support services and to provide them with the latest information on the life expectancy of children with the diagnosed condition, their mental and physical development, and treatment options. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**
- **Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (S. 306/H.R. 1227)** – The Senate passed this measure in a 98-0 vote, but there has been no action in the House. The bill would restrict insurance companies from using genetic information to deny coverage or charge higher premiums to people who are healthy but may have genes that predispose them to an illness. It also would bar employers from using such knowledge in hiring, firing and other employment decisions. Privacy and confidentiality protections would be extended to genetic data. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**

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**Senate vote lacking on increased indecency fines**

**Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act (S. 193/H.R. 310)** – The House voted 389-38 for this legislation, which would dramatically increase fines for indecency on radio and television broadcasts. The measure would: (1) Increase the maximum fine from \$32,500 to \$500,000 per violation for radio and television stations; (2) up the top penalty for an intentional violation by a performer or network from \$11,000 to \$500,000, and (3) require a license revocation hearing for a station after a third violation. The legislation would not directly affect cable or satellite programming. The FCC is able to regulate only broadcast radio and television. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**

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**Democracy promotion awaits Senate vote**

**ADVANCE Democracy Act (S. 516/H.R. 1133)** – The Advance Democratic Values, Address Non-democratic Countries and Enhance (ADVANCE) Democracy Act would confirm that the promotion of freedom and human rights is an essential ingredient of America's foreign policy. The House approved the measure as part of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act in a 351-78 vote. The measure would establish a State Department office and a panel of external experts to provide counsel and to study the effectiveness of U.S. democratic assistance. It also would create the position of under secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs for the purpose of advancing liberty and add democracy promotion to the responsibilities of the assistant secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**

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**No action yet on marriage amendment**

**Marriage Protection Amendment (S.J. Res 1/H.J. Res 39)** – This constitutional amendment, which has been endorsed by President Bush but has yet to receive a vote this year, would define marriage as the "union of a man and a woman." The text also says, "Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any State, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman." Last year, neither house achieved the two-thirds majority needed for an amendment. To be ratified, an amendment also must be approved by three-fourths of the states. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**

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**Trafficking bill awaits votes in both houses**

**End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act (S. 937/H.R. 2012)** – Congress has yet to act on this bill, which is designed to combat domestic sex trafficking by targeting the demand side of the illicit trade. The proposal would fund the increased prosecution of purchasers of illegal sex acts and the traffickers who exploit the victims, normally women and children. It would focus on stopping the trafficking of people into the United States for purposes of prostitution and sexual slavery. It is estimated about 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**

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**Underage drinking proposal awaits action**

**Sober Truth on Preventing (STOP) Underage Drinking Act (S. 408/H.R. 864)** – This proposal, which neither the Senate nor House has voted on, is designed to reduce alcohol consumption by minors. It would: (1) Appropriate \$2 million yearly for a committee to coordinate efforts among federal agencies to prevent underage drinking and to report to Congress; (2) fund a media campaign targeting adults at \$1 million a year; (3) provide \$10 million for new programs in states and communities, as well as at colleges, and (4) grant \$6 million for increased research. Underage drinking constitutes 20 percent of all alcohol consumed in the United States, and the binge drinking rate for minors grew by 56 percent from 1993 to 2001. Binge drinking is defined as consuming at least five drinks in a sitting during the previous month. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**

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**No votes yet on parental rights bill**

**Parents Right to Know Act (S. 1279/H.R. 3011)** – The legislation, which has not been voted on by Congress, bars the funding of family planning programs that distribute contraceptives to underage children without parental consent. **The ERLC SUPPORTS this act.**

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