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2005 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 57

January 11, 2006 – Introduced by Senators Miller, Erpenbach, Coggs, Robson and Risser, cosponsored by Representatives Black, Benedict, Molepske, Boyle, Lehman, Jeskewitz, Turner, Pope-Roberts, Pocan, Berceau, Seidel, Schneider and Wasserman. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: commending the University of Wisconsin-Madison and James 1 2 Thomson. 3 Whereas, researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the 4 leadership of Professor James Thomson were the first to develop the technology for 5 isolating and maintaining human stem cells; and 6 Whereas, isolating and maintaining human stem cells is a necessary step in the 7 ability to conduct ongoing research into the science of cell differentiation and growth; 8 and 9 Whereas, human stem cell research holds promise for the development of 10 therapies to treat chronic diseases such as Parkinson's disease, diabetes, and 11 neurological damage; and 12 Whereas, research into potential therapies that may be derived from stem cells 13 has been hampered by the presence of nonhuman material used in the nutrient

medium to maintain stem cells in a primordial state; and

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Whereas, researchers at UW-Madison recently created 2 new stem cell lines completely free of nonhuman nutrients and material; and

Whereas, the work of UW Professor James Thomson and the stem cell research team at UW-Madison has placed Wisconsin at the forefront of stem cell research in the nation; and

Whereas, 5 of the currently viable stem cell lines now eligible for federal funding were created at UW-Madison; and

Whereas, UW-Madison, together with the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation and the WICell Institute, maintains stringent ethical requirements on the institutions licensed to use stem cell lines and concomitant technology developed by UW researchers; and

Whereas, stem cell research at UW-Madison continues to attract cutting-edge biotechnology industry and jobs to Wisconsin; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the Wisconsin legislature commends Professor James Thomson, the UW-Madison stem cell research team, and UW-Madison for its outstanding accomplishments and contributions to stem cell research and the economic and scientific benefits their research has provided to the people of the state of Wisconsin; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Wisconsin legislature fully supports human stem cell research because of the continuing economic and scientific benefit to the state of Wisconsin and the potential life-saving therapies for which stem cell technology holds significant promise.

(END)