



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

November 3, 2005

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 499. This bill would criminalize some of the most promising scientific techniques used by stem cell researchers, not only potentially delaying cures to some of humanity's oldest and deadliest diseases but also costing Wisconsin jobs in the future.

While we can all agree that human cloning is not acceptable, it has already been prohibited by the federal Food and Drug Administration. The real purpose of this bill is to restrict stem cell research, which holds enormous potential for our state as well as the promise of curing juvenile diabetes, spinal cord injuries, and Parkinson's disease. Allowing our scientists to search for cures to diseases isn't about being liberal or conservative. It's about being compassionate. And respect for human life means you don't turn your back on cures that can save lives.

It is a sad irony that a bill criminalizing promising scientific research comes to my desk one month after Wisconsin was designated as the nation's Stem Cell Bank by the National Institutes of Health. This bill sends the wrong signal to the nation about Wisconsin. Wisconsin should continue to recruit and welcome the nation's best scientists, not treat them like criminals.

Finally, this bill would undo all of our efforts to expand biomedical and medical technology businesses. Wisconsin biotech firms already employ approximately 22,000 people and contribute \$6.9 billion annually to the state economy.

It is unfortunate that the United States Congress has so far turned its back on stem cell research, refusing to support important legislation to accelerate stem cell research. We should not follow their example in Wisconsin.

I hope that this veto will send a clear message to the Legislature, the scientific community, and to families who are hoping and praying for cures: Wisconsin will remain at the forefront of stem cell research.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM DOYLE
Governor