

2001 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 74

November 6, 2001 – Introduced by Representatives BLACK, WASSERMAN, URBAN, RILEY, CARPENTER, BERCEAU, POCAN, TURNER, BOCK, SINICKI, TOWNSEND, MILLER, KREUSER, GRONEMUS, RICHARDS and REYNOLDS, cosponsored by Senators CHVALA, ROSENZWEIG, PLACHE, BURKE, RISSER, WIRCH and DECKER. Referred to Committee on Health.

1 **Relating to:** commending Dr. James Thomson and his research team, the
2 University of Wisconsin–Madison, and the Wisconsin Alumni Research
3 Foundation for their pioneering work in embryonic stem cell research and
4 asking the federal government to designate the University of
5 Wisconsin–Madison as a National Center of Excellence for Embryonic Stem
6 Cell Research.

7 Whereas, Professor James Thomson of the University of Wisconsin–Madison
8 and his colleagues were the first scientists to isolate and culture human embryonic
9 stem cells; and

10 Whereas, this research has laid the foundation for a revolution in medicine,
11 offering hope to millions of people suffering from debilitating and sometimes deadly
12 diseases, such as heart disease, Parkinson’s Disease, and diabetes; and

13 Whereas, this research was conducted under stringent ethical guidelines; and

14 Whereas, the University of Wisconsin–Madison is recognized as a worldwide
15 leader in embryonic stem cell research in monkeys and humans; and

1 Whereas, the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) has played a
2 critical role in fostering this new technology, and its efforts to protect and
3 disseminate this technology have ensured that the intellectual property of the
4 University of Wisconsin–Madison is deployed for the benefit of the citizens of
5 Wisconsin and the world; and

6 Whereas, after careful and thoughtful deliberation, President George W. Bush
7 has announced a national policy permitting the use of federal funds for research on
8 embryonic stem cells derived before August 9, 2001; and

9 Whereas, the 5 existing stem cell lines developed at the University of
10 Wisconsin–Madison and patented by WARF are the gold standard of human
11 embryonic stem cell lines; and

12 Whereas, WARF, through its agreement with the National Institutes of Health
13 under the policies of the administration of President George W. Bush, is providing
14 access to these important stem cell lines to researchers around the world; and

15 Whereas, national science policymakers are targeting embryonic stem cell
16 research grants as a major area of investment; and

17 Whereas, because of its research excellence and the national prominence of its
18 faculty, the University of Wisconsin–Madison is in a position to compete successfully
19 for federal embryonic stem cell research funds; and

20 Whereas, established companies, new biotechnology start–ups, and venture
21 capitalists will likely be attracted to the Madison area and other regions of the state
22 to be in close proximity to world leaders in this research, thereby enhancing economic
23 development in the state; now, therefore, be it

24 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
25 legislature commends Dr. James Thomson and his research team, the University of

1 Wisconsin–Madison, and WARF, for this pioneering research that has significant
2 potential to improve public health for all and that promises enhanced economic
3 development in Wisconsin; and, be it further

4 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin legislature requests the National Institutes of
5 Health to designate the University of Wisconsin–Madison as a “National Center of
6 Excellence in Embryonic Stem Cell Research”; and, be it further

7 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
8 resolution to the U.S. secretary of health and human services, to the director of the
9 National Institutes of Health, and to all members of the congressional delegation
10 from this state.

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(END)