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April 22, 2005

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing to let you know that the University of California (UC) supports "The Human Cloning Ban and Stem Cell Research Protection Act of 2005." We appreciate your continuing leadership and effort to enact this thoughtful legislation to ban human cloning and to help ensure ethical and potentially therapeutic nuclear transplantation research.

As you know, most Americans believe the ethical and moral implications of human reproductive cloning are unacceptable, and scientific societies and research universities share this sentiment. The criminal and civil penalties provided in your bill are suitable disincentives to reproductive cloning.

Importantly, "The Human Cloning Ban and Stem Cell Research Protection Act of 2005" permits non-reproductive cloning research pursuant to closely regulated scientific and ethical standards. This research, utilizing somatic cell nuclear transfer to produce stem cells, holds much opportunity for increasing our understanding, prevention, and treatment of human disease, disability, and premature death. In addition, your bill requires important protections for the safety and privacy of nuclear transplantation research participants, including informed consent and significant fines for ethics violations.

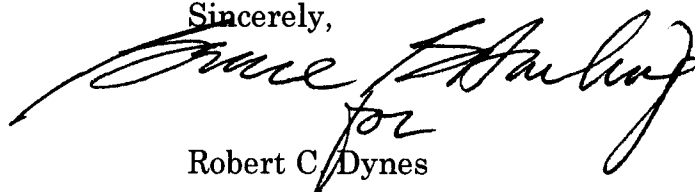
When UC and Stanford University researchers made seminal recombinant DNA discoveries three decades ago, our nation weighed the risk and promise of this new science. Ultimately, recombinant DNA research proceeded under close and thoughtful regulation. At the same time, governments in Japan and Europe banned or inhibited this research. The result has been that the United States, and especially California, immediately gained dominance in the field of biotechnology worldwide, and both our country and the world have benefited since from the development of an array of medicines that have saved tens of thousands of lives.

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
April 22, 2005
Page 2

Today, the U.S. is at a similar crossroads with respect to somatic cell nuclear transfer research. The enactment of "The Human Cloning Ban and Stem Cell Research Protection Act of 2005" will ensure our ability to lead the world in developing the medical breakthroughs that the nation expects from its investment in university research.

My colleagues and I appreciate your considering our views and your authoring this farsighted legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce B. Darling" with a large flourish extending to the right. Below the signature, the name "Robert C. Dynes" is printed.

Robert C. Dynes

cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Orrin Hatch
The Honorable Edward Kennedy
The Honorable Arlen Specter
Provost M.R.C. Greenwood
Senior Vice President Bruce B. Darling
Vice President Michael Drake
Assistant Vice President Scott Sudduth