

The Florida House of Representatives
Representative Franklin Sands
98th District

May 17, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Crist, Governor
The State of Florida
PL – 05 The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist,

I write to inform you of proviso language that was placed in the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Appropriations Act that will be detrimental to Florida's biomedical community, Florida's university research cooperatives, and the citizens of Florida.

Specifically, on page 39, under the Education Budget, Section 2 – Education (All Other Funds), the Act states: "Funds provided in Specific Appropriations 11 through 15 and 131 through 143 shall not be used to support human embryonic stem cell research. This provision shall not apply if the cell or cells in question originated from a source other than a human embryo."

I find this language troubling and deeply problematic, and based on my studies of the issue throughout the seven years of my legislative career, I find it to be inconsistent with the views of most Floridians, as well as many scientists, researchers and medical providers.

While new strides are being made using only adult stem cell lines, scientists mostly agree that without the ability to continue research on embryonic stem cell lines, opportunities will be missed and research will be delayed.

Institutions have rulemaking authority under the Department of Health's Institutional Review Boards, which plainly outline strict ethical guidelines and procedures relating to embryos being utilized for research techniques. I feel it is imperative to continue to allow these decisions to be made by those who are working directly in the field of biomedical research. I don't think it appropriate to bind the hands of scientists who are on the cusp of discovering life-saving

House Democratic Caucus Leader 2008 - 2010

REPLY TO:

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Legislature's Website: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>

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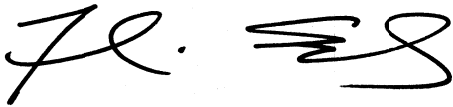
treatments and cures. Allowing for government to intercede in such groundbreaking research is misguided.

I respectfully request that you line-item veto specific proviso language under line item 130 Division of Universities Program: Educational and General Activities. Allowing this language to remain part of the FY 2010-11 Appropriations Act will put Florida researchers and our state's biomedical community at a grave disadvantage to other states and nations. Allowing the language to stand also would prohibit many of our research institutes from competing for additional grants and other available monies. And finally, after luring five top biomedical companies to our great state, Florida should remain steadfast in its commitment to becoming a leader in this innovative and promising field. The research being performed at Scripps, Torrey Pines, Burnham, and Max Planck provide high paying jobs and economic incentives in the billions of dollars.

Governor, a veto of this proviso language would ensure Florida's promise to the people that our state will continue conducting life-saving research.

I sincerely thank you and your staff for attention to this very important matter facing our state. If I can be of any further assistance in answering any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at 954-260-6292.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F.S.", followed by a stylized signature that looks like "MS".

Franklin Sands