



**Statement by Dr. Kathy McReynolds
Public Policy Director for the Christian Institute on Disability
Agoura Hills, Calif., Feb. 23, 2009**

“As a bio-ethicist and part of a ministry to those with disabilities, I follow closely all of the advances in the field of adult stem cell research. I believe this is our best hope for real cures for hundreds of disabilities and debilitating diseases.

“I am greatly concerned about excitement in the stem cell research industry regarding the FDA’s loosening of restrictions on human embryonic stem cell research. News reports indicate that President Obama could overturn the ban on federally-funded human embryonic stem cell research any day now.

“I fear for the lives of those who would be experimented on in such a manner. Last week's news reports of the Israeli boy treated with human fetal stem cells in Russia four years ago were chilling. He developed tumors, just as mice have in laboratory experiments with embryonic stem cells. I believe this is just the tip of the ice berg as far as the negative results of human embryonic or fetal stem cell research and treatment.

“Using embryos for research is also a justice issue. Simply put, it is destruction of human life without that life having been given a say in the matter. Human rights don't get any more basic than that.

“Instead, I look to adult stem cells for positive and successful treatment. Recent news reports out of Louisville, Ky., told of a heart patient treated successfully with his own cardiac stem cells. We are hearing more and more of these success stories every day, and I encourage researchers everywhere to continue their studies into the world of possibilities adult stem cells offer.”

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