Contributor Report

House Passes Stem Cell Bill, But Not By Veto-Proof Majority

As part of its “first 100 hours” strategy, the Democratic leadership introduced House and Senate versions of the *Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act* (HR 3 and S 5), which are essentially the same bills passed in the 109th Congress to expand the Administration’s embryonic stem cell policy that were vetoed by the President. On January 11, the House passed the bill 253-174, short of the 290 votes needed to override a Presidential veto. House bill sponsor Cong. Diana DeGette (D-CO) stated that, “…we are going to come back time after time until the bill passes.” Senate action is imminent, and Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) has announced that he would attach a stem cell bill to FY2008 LHHS appropriations should stand-alone legislation be vetoed by the President.

NAEVR has communicated frequently with House stem cell bill sponsors, including meetings by Dr. Ryan with Jed Perry in Cong. DeGette’s (D-CO) office and Elizabeth Wenk in Cong. Castle’s (R-DE) office. Both Members also serve as Diabetes Caucus co-chairs and have supported past AEVR briefings on the NEI-funded Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Networks.