

**TESTIMONY REGARDING HB 1810**  
**(to criminalize human cloning)**  
**LOUISIANA SENATE JUDICIARY "A" COMMITTEE**  
Originally scheduled for June 10, 2003

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Dr. W. A. Krotoski; I am an internist and medical scientist, now retired. I have lived in Louisiana since 1975, and in Baton Rouge since 1983. My credentials include the M.D., Ph.D. and M.P.H. (Master of Public Health) degrees; I have published over 50 scientific papers, taught in schools of medicine and public health (primarily in Louisiana), co-authored a medical textbook, and contributed to others. I am Co-founder of *The Hippocratic Resource* a statewide organization of life-respecting physicians, dentists, medical scientists, nurses, and other health professionals a significant proportion of whom possess multiple or advanced professional degrees; I am also a former President of the Louisiana Right to Life Federation. With this background, I would like to address the Committee on HB 1810, the Beard-Shaw-Ellington bill to criminalize the cloning of humans in Louisiana.

Two years ago, the Louisiana Legislature courageously passed one of the nation's first bills: to ban human cloning. This bill, sponsored by Senator Donald Hines, himself a physician by training, subsequently became law as Act 788 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Legislature. Unfortunately, it has since become apparent that Act 788 is seriously flawed, in that it does *not* ban all human cloning, only so called *reproductive* human cloning to produce a child. Act 788 does not ban the production of human clone embryos for research, a procedure that has been given the euphemistic misnomer of "therapeutic" cloning, though therapeutic for nobody. This absence of a legal ban can almost inevitably lead to what have been called human embryo "farms."

Medically and biologically speaking, a human embryo, whether produced by normal fertilization or as a clone, is human. Such a conclusion is based on his or her human origins and unique DNA; by pattern of embryonic development; and by clear analogy with what was done to produce Dolly, the sheep clone. As such, every human clone embryo deserves the dignity of a human being - which demands protection, not killing for experimentation. Killing a human clone embryo is killing a human being, just as would be the case for any naturally-conceived human being at the embryo stage of development. Morally speaking, we are not empowered to kill each other arbitrarily, whether for research, or for any other reason. Therefore, *all* human cloning must be banned, not just that for reproduction, and the ban must be endowed with sufficient teeth to prevent wanton and arrogant tinkering with the natural human reproductive processes devised by our Creator.

Our current, flawed law is scheduled to expire on July 1 of 2003, although Senator Hines has introduced a bill, currently awaiting action in the Senate, to extend it for three years. However, that bill does nothing to address any form of human cloning other than for reproduction, and it can readily be anticipated that, lacking a comprehensive ban, living human clone embryos will be produced, experimented upon, or allowed to develop anomalously until killed. Fortunately, in anticipation of this, Representatives Beard and Shaw, and Senator Ellington, have introduced the carefully crafted bill currently before this committee. HB 1810 will have the desired effect of a comprehensive human cloning ban - with teeth. Therefore, in order to prevent continuation of the current, serious flaw in our Louisiana law; to prevent the production of human clone embryos for experimentation and killing; and to further a genuine and honest respect for all human life, we ask you to vote favorably on HB 1810, and permit it to go forward to the full Senate.

Thank you very much for your time and attention!

W. A. Krotoski, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.

**Why a Human Clone Embryo is Fully Human:**

Every human being normally begins his or her unique life at the moment of fertilization, when she or he acquires the full human complement of 46 (human) chromosomes, 23 from the father, and 23 from the mother. This fact is underlined both by in vitro fertilization technology and by advances in DNA identification techniques. Thereafter, the new human individual goes through a spectrum of stages, part of

which are scientifically designated as embryonic or embryos, the later ones as fetuses and pre-born babies or prenatals. Similarly, a cloned individual (e.g. Dolly the sheep) goes through an embryo stage developmentally equivalent to that resulting from normal fertilization. If in the womb and not aberrant, this clone embryo will continue to develop – just as did Dolly – and be born. Of course, if the clone embryo is of human origin, he or she (the sex was determined at fertilization or stays the same at nuclear transfer) will also pass through all the usual stages in the womb, and, if not aberrant or killed, will be born as a human baby.