

**TESTIMONY REGARDING HB 492 (Morrish & Beard)**  
**(to prohibit human cloning)**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE on ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
**MAY 12, 2005**

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Dr. W. A. Krotoski; I am an internist and medical scientist, now retired, with credentials including the M.D., Ph.D. and M.P.H. (Master of Public Health) degrees. I have published 54 scientific papers, have co-authored a medical textbook and contributed chapters to others, and have served on the Medical, Public Health and Graduate faculties of both LSU and Tulane University. I now represent *The Hippocratic Resource*, a statewide organization of health care professionals, primarily physicians, numbering 140 members with over 150 professional degrees. I would like to present this illustrious Committee with the following information regarding HB 492 by Representatives Morrish and Beard, which would provide a comprehensive ban on human cloning in Louisiana. I apologize that I cannot do so in person, but must be in Steubenville, Ohio, this weekend, attending my stepson's university graduation, for which I have had airline tickets for the past two months.

Any discussion on human cloning *must* begin with an analogy to normal human development, as, once a complete, human gene complement (DNA) is attained by the reproducing cell – whether by normal fertilization, or by artificial means as in the cloning process – the one-celled embryos (zygotes) begin differentiating and developing along identical paths. Medically and biologically speaking, a human embryo, natural or cloned, is human, based on his or her human origins and unique DNA, and, due to those human origins and anticipated ability to grow into an adult, he or she deserves the dignity afforded any naturally conceived human being. This demands protection, not killing for experimentation. Killing a human clone embryo, therefore, is killing a human being, and, ethically or morally speaking, we are not empowered to kill each other arbitrarily, whether for research, or for any other reason. Simply put, since all human clones are human and are on the path to a human infancy (even if flawed), *all* human cloning must be banned.

In 2002, The President's Council on Bioethics stated unanimously that "Cloning threatens the very dignity of human life ..." Furthermore, it is particularly unconscionable to *manufacture* human beings in order to destroy them, whether for research, or for any other purpose. No research should be conducted with a 100% risk of ending a human life; therefore, a ban on *all* human cloning, for whatever purpose, is clearly called for, and Representative Morrish's bill, HB 492, will do just exactly that.

In contrast, Senate bill SB 306 by Senator Hines and [HB 736, by] Representative LaFleur simply ignore[s] the biologic facts regarding human origins and the complete equivalence of natural human embryos and cloned human embryos, once the one-celled stage (the zygote) has been formed. For instance,

On p.1, lines 4 ff., they propose "... to prohibit the expenditure of state funds for the purpose of cloning human beings ..." However, a human being is cloned at the moment of stimulation of the re-constituted *ovum* to begin development as a zygote or one-celled (clone) embryo. Were this not so, Dolly the sheep would not have been a sheep, and similarly with the other species cloned thus far, including horses and household pets – a very "going" industry in California!

On p.2, lines 1-5 ff., they state "It is the intent of the legislation to ... insure the sanctity of life ..." How does this proposed law ensure the sanctity of life? It has already destroyed that sanctity by proposing to permit the manufacture of human clone embryos! And on line 18, "... research that shows the tremendous promise to cure disease and end human suffering." What "tremendous promise?" There have been zero (0) clinical successes with natural embryonic stem

cells – which are obtained from an entirely equivalent embryonic stage as those proposed here – whereas adult and other mature stem cell research has yielded numerous clinically effective materials and techniques. I believe the last count is 58 to zero. On lines 22-26, they assert, "Clone" means the practice of *creating or attempting to create a human being* by transferring the nucleus from a human cell from whatever source into a human egg cell from which the nucleus has been removed ..." However, this definition of "clone" introduced by their bill is biologically/scientifically inaccurate. The clone begins at the moment of stimulation of the re-constituted, recipient *ovum* (egg) to begin development. If his or her life were to be allowed to continue, an easily recognizable human form would be attained.

On p. 3, line 6 they propose "... which is then stimulated to form a blastocyst ..." But, a human blastocyst is nothing more than a 4 (or so)-day old embryo which, by his or her own internal, living processes, has developed a central cavity. She or he remains as such – while continuing cell division – for an additional 10 or so days. This bill's own use of the term accurately acknowledges – even if inadvertently – the humanity of the clone embryo, including at this early stage. As was the case with Dolly the sheep, and other cloned animals, final confirmation of such an admission is undeniable well before the adult stage is reached.

And, finally, on p.5, lines 21-22, they state, "(1) With full consideration for the ethical and medical implications of the research." How can one require or assure that research be conducted with "full consideration for its ethical and medical implications," when the first, basic step – that of creating a human being for research – is already unethical (given, particularly, that the clone embryo is to be put to death and used for research), with totally improper medical implications. Laws must be based on truth and reality – not the other way around. We cannot suspend the law of gravity by passing a law; similarly, you cannot deny the truth of what is being promoted, i.e. the manufacture of what is, biologically and rationally, human life at an early stage. Were it not human life, the promoters would not be interested in going to all the trouble involved. For what they *think* their research will do, they need human life. The trouble is that in order to do what they *think* they need, they must destroy it, once formed, in order to get what they want.

Finally, should [HB 736] SB 306 be adopted, it can readily be anticipated that, in the absence of a comprehensive ban, living human clone embryos will be produced, experimented on, and allowed to develop – even aberrantly – until killed. In contrast, the Morrish/Beard bill, HB 492, is carefully crafted, and will have the desired effect of a comprehensive human cloning ban – with teeth. Therefore, we ask that you vote *favorably* on the true cloning ban, HB 492, and vote *unfavorably* on SB 306 [HB 736]. In this way, you will be furthering a very necessary, honest and well-founded respect for all human life, both born and unborn.

Thank you very much for your attention!

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