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Austin, Texas, April 22, 2009 – Texans for Stem Cell Research (TSCR) wishes to thank the House members responsible for ensuring that language banning state funding for embryonic stem cell research in Texas did not make it into the House version of Senate Bill 1. We'd like to especially thank Representatives Hardcastle, Homer, and Cohen, for sharing their views at the press conference sponsored by Texans for the Advancement of Medical Research Friday, April 17, 2009. TSCR also thanks Representative Dunnam who played a key role in making sure "toxic" language similar to Senator Ogden's rider did not become a part of the House version.

Texas has earned attention from around the world on its progressive commitment to medical research. Prohibiting state funding on a specific type of research will not only serve to nullify those activities but also jeopardizes the Texas Cancer Prevention and Research Institute and ALL public and private medical research institutions.

"This fight is far from over, but the actions on Friday night by the Texas House are an encouraging sign that Texas will NOT follow narrow minded members who think Texas should permanently ban state funding for embryonic stem cell research," said David Bales, President of TSCR.

TSCR will now contact all appointees to the joint conference committee and especially the Senate conferees. We hope that Lt. Governor Dewhurst and Speaker Straus will appoint conferees who understand the importance of this research and will remove Senator Ogden's rider from the Appropriations Bill.

TSCR is also monitoring the Senate Finance Committee in anticipation of a hearing on SB 1695 by Ogden, which would ban state funding for embryonic stem cell research. We strongly oppose this bill and trust Senator Ogden will respect the legislative process and lay out his bill in an open hearing for public testimony.

Texans for Stem Cell Research is a non-profit organization incorporated in Texas that promotes **HOPE** and **Quality of Life** by providing information and education to Texans about the benefits of stem cell research and treatment.