

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Texans For Stem Cell Research Believes Banning Stem Cell Research In Texas Is The Wrong Move**

**Austin, Texas, March 31, 2009** – In an unprecedented move, a small group of Senators on the Senate Finance Committee placed a Rider on the Senate’s version of the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Appropriations Bill. Texans for Stem Cell Research (TSCR) is adamantly opposed to this unconscionable act of irresponsibility by some of the State’s leaders. TSCR wants the people of Texas to know:

- Public opposition to Senator Ogden’s Rider on the Senate’s version of the State Appropriation’s Bill is broad and reflected in editorials in the Austin American Statesman “Anti-science Position Risks Making Texas A Backwater In Scientific Research” and the Dallas Morning News, “Ban on Some Research Stalls Budget.”
- If Senator Ogden’s Rider remains in the appropriations bill Texas will be considered the most resistant state to scientific research.
- This position will seriously compromise the will of the People. In 2008 the people of Texas overwhelmingly voted in favor of the “Cancer Research and Prevention Initiative.” Senator Ogden has unilaterally and irresponsibly imposed his personal will on the citizens of Texas and on fellow Senate members by placing the Rider on the appropriations bill without public input or critical Senatorial debate.
- The Cancer Research and Prevention Initiative was intended to make Texas a leader in finding the cure for cancer.

- In affect this rider will pull the rug out from under the Cancer Research and Prevention Initiative and all benefits to the citizens and economy of Texas.
- The negative economic impact of this Rider will severely curtail the progress already made, that gives so much hope to the people of Texas.
- Legislator's responsibility is the Public Trust. The process deserves transparency. While legislative members demand transparency of our citizens and the agencies that serve our people, they need to hold themselves to the same standards, and we the People of Texas need to demand that of them.
- The economic impact that will result from Texas being a leader in the biotech field is profound; a projected increase of 230,000 jobs and \$12.8 billion in salaries, wages and benefits. The biotech field will increase business tax revenues for state and local government by \$1.3 billion annually. (See January 2009 Economic Impact Study by Dr. Bernard Weinstein, University of North Texas).
- Texans for Stem Cell Research believes that Hope and Quality of Life should not be predicated on the will of one individual or sector of our state, but should be the purview of the People of Texas who spoke loudly in 2008.

**ABOUT TEXANS FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH** - 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.

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