

Georgia insight

Sue Ella Deadwyler, 4168 Rue Antoinette, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

"She hath done what she could." Mark, 14:8a

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4 Days Left in Session & Stem Cell Bill Must Pass Committee

Why aren't embryos the best source of stem cells for medical research? (a) Embryos are human life that must die to provide stem cells. (b) Embryos are *not* the only (c) and they're *not the best* source of stem cells. (d) Embryonic stem cells cannot be trusted to perform as expected. American and Brazilian (e) researchers reversed Type 1 juvenile diabetes by using the patients' own stem cells. It's known that (f) 12 areas of the adult body contain dependable stem cells that have been harvested with no harm to the adult. So, it's unnecessary to kill embryos for stem cells that are readily available from more reliable nondestructive sources.

Bills that seem so reasonable often run into thick brick walls in the Georgia General Assembly. Such is the plight of **S.B. 148** that offers a perfect solution to the ongoing debate about stem cell research. Soon after President Bush took office he limited federal embryonic stem cell research to lines already in use and prohibited the acquisition of new embryos for federally-funded research. However, that restriction did not limit privately funded embryonic research.

But embryos are not necessary to obtain the best possible results from stem cells. In fact, the Bioethics Defense Fund (BDF) media reported that **13 cases of Type 1 juvenile diabetes** were reversed by using stem cells from the patients' own body. Using the patients' stem cells eliminated the danger of tumor formation or rejection that occurs with embryonic stem cells. The 13 have lived insulin-free, some for as much as three years. The process didn't work for two of the 15-patients in the study, although they did not suffer lasting side effects.

That several years of juvenile diabetes research done in Brazil by American Dr. Richard Burt and Brazilian Dr. Julio Voltarelli was published online in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* just days ago on April 11, 2007. The treatment was a breakthrough, according to Dr. Burt who said, "It's the first time in the history of Type 1 diabetes where people have gone with no treatment whatsoever ... no medications at all, with normal blood sugars."

Passage of S.B. 148 would **not** be a burden to taxpayers, since state funding would be minimal.

1. **Postnatal tissue and fluids would be donated** after Physicians and hospitals tell pregnant patients of the opportunity to donate postnatal tissue and fluid at the birth of their babies.
2. **Government and foundation grants plus private donations would fund the collection and storage of tissue and fluids** through a Georgia Commission for Saving the Cure.

The provision in S.B. 148 that stem cells would be harvested from postnatal tissue and fluid donated to Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Banks was heatedly debated, with special attacks on the bill's use of the term "nondestructive stem cells." Despite a lengthy Senate debate, seven Democrats joined 32 Republicans to pass S.B. 148 March 20th. On March 27th it went to the House Science and Technology Committee, where efforts to remove "nondestructive" continues. If the bill passes with that change, taxpayers would fund the killing of human life.

ACTION – Support with immediate calls to the Science and Technology Committee, Representatives Amerson, Ch., 404 657-8443; Martin, 463-2247; Mumford, 656-0254; Casas, 656-0254; Loudermilk, 656-0152; Davis, 656-0325; Levitas, 656-0117; Reece, 656-7859; and Oliver, 656-0265.

House & Senate Urge Congress: Stop Merger of U.S. into SPPNA

The U.S., Mexico and Canada are in a five-year-plan for the “establishment by 2010 of a North American economic and security community” with a common “outer security perimeter¹.”

The plan, developed by the Task Force on the Future of North America, was sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations in association with the Canadian Council of Chief Executives and Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales (COMEXI). American University Professor Robert Pastor, Task Force member and author of the 2001 book *Toward a North American Community*, said President Bush agreed to North American integration in the Guanajuato Proposal February 16, 2001. That day Bush and Vicente Fox promised, “[W]e will strive to consolidate a North American economic community.” On April 22, 2001 Bush signed the Declaration of Quebec City, making a “commitment to hemispheric integration.”

Both S.R. 124 and H.R. 688 urge Congress to withdraw from the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPPNA) President Bush signed March 23, 2005 at Waco, Texas and reaffirmed at Cancun, Mexico March 31, 2006. That would effectively eradicate borders between the U.S., Mexico and Canada, while U.S. citizens demand closed borders.

Incredibly, in our representative Republic, without legislation from congress or congressional oversight, no less than 20 working groups in the U.S. Commerce Department are already merging U.S. economy, travel, government and laws into those of Mexico and Canada. Under SPPNA, people, goods, services and money will move freely through the newly created North American Union, while the U.S., Canada and Mexico lose national identity and sovereignty.

Government officials and CEOs from this continent met June 15, 2006 to “institutionalize the North American Security and Prosperity Partnership and the North American Competitiveness Council **so the work will continue through changes in administrations.**”

On January 31st Senator Nancy Schaefer introduced **S.R. 124** as a message from the Senate, asking Congress to intervene in this insidious plan. Her bill remains in committee. On March 30th Representative Mike Coan of House District 101 introduced **H.R. 688** sending the same message to Congress from the House. His bill explains the urgency in the following:

“The ... some ‘kind of union’ or economic merger of the U.S., Mexico, and Canada would be a direct threat to the Constitution and national independence of the United States ... [I]t has never been presented to Congress. ... [S]tate and local governments ... would be negatively impacted by ... ‘open borders’ ... eminent domain takings of private property ... planned superhighways, and increased law enforcement problems along those superhighways.”

H.R. 688 must pass two committees and the full House in the four remaining days this session. Both bills *could* pass if committee members hear from enough people. It’s imperative that you urge the Senate Rules Committee to pass **S.R. 124** onto the Senate floor. Then call Representative Ron Forster’s Interstate Cooperation Committee and ask them to get H.R. 688 moving. Vote it out of that committee into Rules so it can get to the House floor right away.

ACTION – Support both bills as follows.

S.R. 124. Call Rules Committee Senators Balfour, Ch., 404 656-0095; Hamrick, 656-0036; Seabaugh, 656-6446; Adelman, 463-1376; Butler, 656-0075; Jack Hill, 656-5038; Hooks, 656-0065; Johnson, 656-5109; Moody, 463-8055; Pearson, 656-9221; Thomas, 656-6436; Tolleson, 656-0081; Unterman, 463-1368; Williams, 656-0089.

H.R. 688. Call Interstate Cooperation Committee Representative Ron Forster, Ch., 404 656-3947; May, 656-5116; Manning, 656-7857; Ashe, 656-0116; and Johnson, 656-0325.

¹ *The Phyllis Schlafly Report*, September 2006, entitled “Pursuing the ‘North American’ Agenda”, www.eagleforum.org

**Do you want children to buy candy meant to cultivate a taste for marijuana?
Slick advertisers claim, “Every lick is like taking a hit!”**

H.B. 280, Marijuana-Flavored Candy

It was found at a metro Atlanta convenience store. Is it available in your neighborhood?

Interestingly, H.B. 280 was introduced to amend Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated relating to **controlled substances**. Since traditional results of indulging in candy include such effects as hyper activity, tooth decay and weight gain, some other ingredient must have been added to candy to get it tossed into the category of controlled substances.

The bill identifies “marijuana flavored” candy as any product, including lollipops, gumdrops, or other candy flavored to taste like marijuana or hemp. Terms used to identify such products are “Chronic Candy,” “Kronic Kandy,” or “Pot Suckers.” Those highly suggestive monikers explain why this bill prohibits the sale of such products to minors, meaning any unmarried person under the age of 18. The mention of unmarried persons alludes to the fact that marriage means emancipation from parental control, regardless of age, but emancipation does not render the product desirable for anyone, young or old.

The bill continues with the following: According to University of Michigan’s “2004 Monitoring the Future Study” 16.3 percent of eighth graders, 35.1 percent of tenth graders, and 45.7 percent of twelfth graders reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes. In addition, a 2002 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration report entitled, “Initiation of Marijuana Use: Trends, Patterns and Implications,” identified future problems that often follow childhood use. The younger children are when they first use marijuana, the more likely they are to use cocaine and heroin and become drug dependent as adults.

Marijuana abuse is associated with many negative health effects, including frequent respiratory infections, impaired memory and learning, increased heart rate, anxiety and panic attacks. Its users have many of the same respiratory problems associated with tobacco use. According to the “2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse,” marijuana is the country’s most commonly used illicit drug, with more than 83,000,000 Americans aged 12 and older having tried marijuana at least once. Its use has been shown to lower test scores among high school students, and workers who smoke marijuana are more likely to have on-the-job problems.

The marketing of marijuana flavored substances would have an adverse impact on programs educating people about the hazards of drugs that are a threat to minors, since such products falsely imply that marijuana is fun and safe. Therefore, H.B. 280 would make it illegal for any person knowingly to sell, deliver, distribute, or provide to a minor or knowingly possess with intent to sell, deliver, distribute, or provide to a minor any marijuana flavored product in Georgia. Violators would be subject to a \$1,000 fine for each offense and each violation would constitute a separate offense.

ACTION – Support. Call Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Senators Bulloch, Ch., 404 656-0040; Hudgens, 656-4700; Hawkins, 656-6578; Goggans, 463-5263; Orrock, 463-8054; Powell, 463-0314; and Tarver, 656-0340.

S.B. 202, Mattie's Call

Several years ago a new law in Georgia, Levi's Call, was passed to implement a plan for immediate response from law enforcement and the general public when children are reported missing. That law has been responsible for the quick location and recovery of many children and the apprehension of their abductors if they were kidnapped.

Realizing the value of that strategy, S.B. 202 was introduced by Senator Chip Rogers to authorize statewide alert systems for missing disabled adults and murder or rape suspects on the loose. The alert system would be called "Mattie's Call," in honor of a previous case.

If this bill passes, offices of the Governor, the Georgia Lottery Corporation and appropriate law enforcement agencies in the state would cooperate with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to develop and implement the statewide alert systems to be activated on behalf of missing disabled adults.

The statewide coordinator of the alert system would develop policies and rules, as well as, issue necessary directives to ensure proper implementation of the system, including procedures for activating and deactivating the Calls.

The staff of personal care homes would notify the local police department of the elopement of any disabled person from that facility within 30 minutes after the staff has actual knowledge that the person is missing.

The bureau would recruit public and commercial television, radio, cable, print and other media, private commercial entities, state or local governmental entities, the public and other appropriate persons to assist in developing and implementing Mattie's Call. The bureau would, also, enter into agreements with participants in the alert system to provide necessary support for the Calls.

The Call will be terminated if the adult is located or the disappearance is otherwise resolved or the director determines that the alert system is no longer effective in locating or recovering the person reported missing.

On notification by a local law enforcement agency that a suspect in a case of murder or rape has not been apprehended and may be a serious threat to the public, the director shall activate the alert system and notify appropriate participants in the system if the following occurs:

- A local law enforcement agency believes that a suspect has not been apprehended;
- A local law enforcement agency believes that the suspect may be a serious threat to the public; and
- Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the suspect.

Since S.B. 202 passed the Senate on March 19 and is now in the House, there's still time for passage before the end of the session, if you act immediately.

ACTION – Support. Call House Public Safety and Homeland Security Representatives Day, Ch., 404 656-5096; Neal, 656-0152; Horne and Black, 656-0287; Cole, 651-7737; Collins, 656-0188; Crawford, 656-0213; Talton, 656-0254; Frazier and Gardner, 656-0265; and Hanner, 656-7859.

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