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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48**

Offered January 11, 2006

Prefiled January 6, 2006

*Continuing the Joint Subcommittee to Study Medical, Ethical, and Scientific Issues Relating to Stem Cell Research Conducted in the Commonwealth. Report.*

Patrons—Marshall, R.G. and O'Bannon

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 588 (2005) established the Joint Subcommittee to Study Medical, Ethical, and Scientific Issues Relating to Stem Cell Research Conducted in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee has met four times during the 2005 interim and conducted a collegial and bipartisan study, hearing from scientists, ethicists, theologians, and the public; and

WHEREAS, the proceedings of the Joint Subcommittee's study can be viewed and heard on its website, including summaries of its meetings, the link to its survey of relevant websites, audio streaming of its Northern Virginia meeting, a diagram of stem cell asymmetric division, pictures depicting its work, and an issues paper; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee agreed unanimously to make two recommendations to the 2006 Session: (i) the establishment of an umbilical cord blood bank initiative in Virginia that could serve as a resource for patients, research, and, in the event of a terrorist attack, treatment for injured citizens of the Commonwealth; and (ii) continuation of its study for another year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Subcommittee to Study Medical, Ethical, and Scientific Issues Relating to Stem Cell Research Conducted in the Commonwealth be continued.

The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 15 members that shall consist of eight legislative members and seven nonlegislative citizen members. Members shall be appointed as follows: five members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; three members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; one representative each of the University of Virginia School of Medicine and the Eastern Virginia Medical School and two nonlegislative citizen members at-large to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and one representative of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine and two nonlegislative citizen members at-large to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The current members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall be subject to reappointment. The current members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules shall continue to serve until replaced. Vacancies shall be filled by the original appointing authority. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly.

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall continue to review new developments in stem cell research and treatment and seek to fulfill its recommendation to establish an umbilical cord blood bank initiative in the Commonwealth.

Administrative staff support shall continue to be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates. Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall continue to be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. Technical assistance shall continue to be provided by State Board of Health and the Board of Medicine. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee for this study, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2006 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$12,800 without approval as set out in this resolution. Of this amount an estimated \$2,000 is allocated for speakers, materials, and other resources. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.

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59 No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the House members  
60 or a majority of the Senate members appointed to the joint subcommittee (i) vote against the  
61 recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the  
62 joint subcommittee.

63 The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2006, and the chairman shall  
64 submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and  
65 recommendations no later than the first day of the 2007 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The  
66 executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General  
67 Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or  
68 Senate document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of  
69 the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports  
70 and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

71 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint  
72 Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or  
73 delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2006 interim.  
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