

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**April 11, 2007**

## **PATERSON APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF STEM CELL BILL**

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Lieutenant Governor David A. Paterson today issued the following statement regarding the passage by the United States Senate of S.5, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

“Stem cell research has the potential to bring hope to people who suffer from countless debilitating and life threatening diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and cancer. Following the passage of the House of Representative’s stem cell bill in January, the Senate bill moves the country one step closer to realizing the tremendous potential of stem cell research. Leadership at the national level is absolutely critical on this issue and, sadly, it has been non-existent for far too long. New York has had to move to fill this gap in the interim, and the Spitzer-Paterson administration is committed to investing six hundred million dollars in state funding over the next eleven years, with one hundred million dollars earmarked this year already. New York can make great strides in this area, but cannot go it alone. I urge the Senate and the House to resolve the differences between their two bills so that a bill can be presented to the President for signature as soon as possible.”

New York State's recently enacted budget includes provisions for funding stem cell research. The newly created Empire State Stem Cell Board will provide grants to basic, applied, translational and other research that advances scientific discoveries in fields related to stem cell biology. No grants will be allowed for any research involving human reproductive cloning.

The budget also created a Special Revenue Fund known as the Empire State Stem Cell Trust, which will collect and distribute funds. \$100 million was provided in the 2007-2008 fiscal year and \$500 million from the proceeds of the conversion of the Health Insurance Plan (HIP) will be dedicated to the fund, which will be distributed at \$50 million per year for ten years beginning in Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

Governor Eliot Spitzer charged Lieutenant Governor Paterson with spearheading the administration’s efforts in this area in light of his long history as an advocate for stem cell research.