Recent Advocacy Outcomes

When the AAN adopted its position statement in 2004, the reason for taking up the issue was to be able to weigh in on California’s Proposition 71, which wound up being the largest pro-stem-cell funding initiative ever passed by U.S. voters. The AAN did not choose to support the proposition at that time, but it has participated in the following advocacy efforts since:

Federal Advocacy
At the federal level, the AAN has supported bills to expand the range of embryonic stem-cell lines eligible for government funding, and to promote high standards of scientific and ethical scrutiny. The most notable of these bills was the Castle-DeGette legislation vetoed by President Bush last year.

The AAN supports nearly identical bills that have been introduced this year. However, these bills face the same challenge as Castle-DeGette: namely, that the House and Senate are unable by slim margins to override the vetoes of the President.

State Advocacy
Delaware: In 2005 the AAN wrote a letter of support for Senate Bill 80, which would have banned reproductive cloning while opening the door to more funding for new lines of embryonic stem cells. While the bill did not pass during that session, it has been reintroduced and could pass this year.

Ohio: In 2005 the AAN opposed Ohio House Bill 355, which would have placed a ban on state funding for all types of ESCR. The bill failed.