

TIM JOHNSON  
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990  
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440  
PO BOX 1554, ABERDEEN, SD 57402

SIOUX FALLS OFFICE: (605) 332-8896  
PO BOX 1424, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
324 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104  
(202) 224-5842

TDD: (202) 224-8279

TOLL FREE  
1-800-537-0025

E-MAIL: [tim@johnson.senate.gov](mailto:tim@johnson.senate.gov)  
WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

April 19, 2002

Gale Folsland  
609 Bel Aire Drive  
Rapid City, SD 57702

Dear Gale:

Thank you for contacting me to express your opposition to human cloning. I appreciate hearing from you on this very important matter, and I also noted your support of H.R. 503, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act.

I am very much opposed to human reproductive cloning, whether performed with federal funds or otherwise. In June of 1997, former President Clinton sent Congress proposed legislation banning the cloning of human beings for at least five years, giving the National Bioethics Advisory Commission time to assess the risks, and the ethical and social impact of cloning humans. It has since been determined that the Food and Drug Administration has authority over human cloning in our country.

I will support legislative efforts to forbid reproductive cloning of human beings. I do, however, want to make sure that Congress holds prompt hearings on the wording of legislation to make certain that stem cell research, supported by virtually every health-related advocacy organization in America, is not needlessly restricted. Stem cell research uses embryos which are otherwise slated to be destroyed as medical waste for purposes of finding cures from horrific health problems such as Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, diabetes, and spinal cord injury-connected paralysis


The Unborn Victims of Violence Act passed the House of Representatives last April on a vote of 254-172. Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH) has introduced similar legislation in the Senate; however it is not clear yet whether either of these bills will be considered by the full Senate this year.

I believe that a person who assaults a woman and in turn, does harm to a fetus, ought to be subject to enhanced criminal and civil penalties. I do not, however, believe that the fetus (regardless of term) ought to be considered by the law as a separate human being from the mother. An amendment simply providing for enhanced penalties was offered and defeated in the House, which leads me to believe that this legislation is being pursued as a political strategy rather than for the protection of assault victims.

I will support efforts to enhance penalties against criminals for injury to women and their fetuses, but I will not support legislation which, in effect, declares a fertilized ovum as an independent human being.

Thanks again for contacting me on these important issues, and please keep in touch!

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson