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### Akin Supports Ban on Human Cloning

WASHINGTON- Today, the U.S. House of Representatives will consider the Human Cloning Prohibition Act, H.R. 534. Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) is an original cosponsor of the legislation which prohibits a procedure with grave ethical, moral and medical consequences.

The legislation makes it unlawful for any person or entity to knowingly perform or attempt to perform human cloning, or to ship or receive for any embryo produced by human cloning or any product derived from such an embryo.

Following is Akin's statement on the Human Cloning Prohibition Act:

"Life in every stage must be respected and it is never appropriate to create life solely for purposes of research or experimentation. Moreover, there is significant evidence that human clones would face grave medical disorders and abnormalities.

"Opening the door to therapeutic cloning will result in a slippery slope of unscrupulous science and unenforceable laws. On the other hand, adult stem cells have produced promising results. Adult cells do not require the cloning or destruction of human embryos and have been successful in many human applications without the growth of tumors, which is a key defect in the use of cloned embryos.

"Human cloning inevitably crosses the line of what is medically, ethically and morally acceptable and this legislation ensures that criminal penalties are in place for those that would be intent on crossing that line."