Madam Speaker,

Last week the Senate followed our lead and passed legislation to advance potentially life-saving stem cell research. The legislation now heads to President Bush's desk, where he has already threatened a veto.

I hope the president will finally listen to an overwhelming majority of the American people, a bipartisan Congress, and scientists who say this research can save millions of lives. As the American Association for the Advancement of Science has argued, we owe it to those with serious illnesses to vigorously pursue both adult stem cell and embryonic stem cell research.

This is not a partisan issue. In fact, many in the President's own party recognize the potential that exists if scientists are allowed to expand their research.

Madam Speaker, over the last seven years, the President has only vetoed one bill and that was a similar stem cell research bill that passed the Republican Congress last year. The president should seriously reconsider his veto threat so we can begin this lifesaving research.

(####)