



1750 Ocean Park Boulevard, #200, Santa Monica, CA 90405 - 4938
Tel: 310-392-0522 • Fax: 310-392-8874 • Net: consumerwatchdog.org

Oct. 23, 2007

Warren Wollschlager, Chair
Interstate Alliance for Stem Cell Research

Dear Warren,

I am writing to ask that the Interstate Alliance for Stem Cell Research take formal action at your meeting Oct. 24-25 in Boston to commit to keeping all future meetings of this important group open to the public.

I know the public is welcome at this week's session and I thank you for your efforts to ensure that was the case. Nonetheless I cannot forget the earlier session in Irvine, CA, where a representative of the National Academies of Science ejected me.

While the Alliance is still in its early stages, it is critical to set the correct tone for the future. Without a formal commitment to openness, public access could be thwarted by the whim of a future chair.

I fully expect the Interstate Alliance will have a major influence on rules and regulations in all the states that are represented. That means it is imperative that the public have access to your deliberations and the ability to offer input and comments. Given the potentially contentious nature of publicly funded stem cell research, the need for the utmost transparency is even greater than would otherwise be the case.

I ask that the Alliance emphasize its commitment to open meetings with a formal resolution. Further, I suggest that you consider creating a working group to draft model regulations to ensure openness, transparency and accountability in the various state stem cell programs. Such a working group should go beyond members of the state stem cell agencies and include representatives of organizations committed to public access in government operations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

John M. Simpson