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THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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ID# 485120 PAGE 1

DATE RECEIVED: 06/21/2001

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NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: CHARLES W. COLSON

SUBJECT: WRITING TO LET PRESIDENT KNOW OF DEEP CONCERN TO IMMINENT THREAT TO HUMAN LIFE AND DIGNITY POSED BY THE EMERGING OF HUMAN CLONING, AND TO ASK FOR HIS ASSISTANCE AND LEDERSHIP TO COUNTER THIS THREAT

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THE BIOETHICS PROJECT

WILLIAM KRISTOL, *Chairman* WILLIAM J. BENNETT ROBERT P. GEORGE LEON KASS GILBERT MEILAENDER KATE O'BEIRNE WESLEY J. SMITH ADAM WOLFSON MARY CANNON, *Program Director*

June 4, 2001

President George W. Bush The White House Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

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The world is in the midst of a scientific revolution in the fields of genetics and biotechnology. This revolution has tremendous potential to alleviate human suffering, but all too often it appears to be taking place in a moral vacuum, unfettered by law and unburdened by moral constraints.

Through your statements and your actions, you have demonstrated your profound respect for human life and your strong commitment to preserving and protecting human dignity. We are writing to let you know of our deep concern about the imminent threat to human life and dignity posed by the emerging reality of human cloning, and to urgently ask for your assistance and leadership to counter this threat.

We strongly support legislation introduced by Senator Sam Brownback and Congressman Dave Weldon (along with nearly 100 bipartisan co-sponsors) to ban human cloning. This well-crafted and comprehensive bill will be the subject of hearings over the next month in the House Judiciary Committee. Opponents of the measure will try to advance a misleading and shortsighted alternate bill to ban only "reproductive" cloning, even though they know it is impossible to enforce such a ban. However, the real goal of the alternate bill is to make legal the creation of cloned human embryos that can be used for research and organ/tissue harvesting -- a prospect that seems too horrible to contemplate, but in fact already is taking place in laboratories around the world.

A Program of

The New Citizenship Project

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Mr. President, we implore you to endorse the Brownback/Weldon bill and to urge members of Congress in both parties to pass it and send it to you for your signature as soon as possible. You have a great opportunity to articulate a moral vision that champions a culture of life against such a "brave new world" of human experimentation, and to give a desperately needed moral foundation to the biotech era. We stand ready to assist you in any way possible.

Respectfully,

Charles W. Colson Founder, Prison Fellowship Ministries Chairman, The Wilberforce Forum

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James Dobson, Ph.D President, Focus on the Family

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Richard D. Land, D.Phil President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Nigel M. de S. Cameron Chairman, Coalition for Biotechnology Policy Founding Editor, <u>Ethics and Medicine</u>

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William J. Bennett Co-Director, Empower America Board of Advisors, The Bioethics Project

Kenneth L. Connor President, Family Research Council

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William Kristol Editor, The Weekly Standard Chairman, The Bioethics Project