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For Immediate Release

Federal funding of embryonic stem cell research 'morally reprehensible'

PEORIA, Ill. — Federal funding of embryonic stem cell research is “morally reprehensible,” an officer of Samaritan Ministries International said Tuesday.

James Lansberry, a vice president of Samaritan, was responding to President Barack Obama’s decision to rescind President George W. Bush’s restrictions on federal funding of embryonic stem cell research.

Obama has not only decided to allow taxpayer money to be used for research involving the destruction of human embryos but has also rescinded a 2007 Bush executive order providing money for alternative research involving adult cells.

“Public financing of scientific research, if it is to be done, needs to avoid funding experiments that many Americans find morally objectionable,” Lansberry said.

“Allowing taxpayer dollars to fund embryonic stem cell research is morally reprehensible and is tantamount to government-funded abortions. Added to this moral difficulty is the fact that major breakthroughs in stem cell research have been accomplished using adult stem cells, making embryonic stem cell research is not only morally wrong but scientifically unjustified. Taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund science that a significant portion of our nation’s people object to.”

Samaritan Ministries is a health care needs-sharing organization founded in 1994. It includes more than 13,300 member households around the world. For more information about SMI or to contact James Lansberry, call 1-888-268-4377.

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