

AMERICAN'S REACTION TO STEM CELL RESEARCH

***Weekend Polling Results Show Bush Wins Spin War As
Approval for Position Jumps From 50% On August 9 to 62% By
August 12***



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Washington, DC — “After a weekend considering the issue of President Bush’s decision on stem cell research, Americans have largely come to endorse the Bush compromise,” says Thomas Riehle, President, U.S. Public Affairs at Ipsos-Reid. “Three-in-five Americans (62%) approve of Bush’s decision when it is described to them, including a majority (51%) of Democrats.”

“Disapproval is confined mostly to those who want NO restrictions on stem cell research. The religious opponents of stem cell research have largely been persuaded by the compromise, particularly strongly religious Protestants. Among Protestants for whom religion is very important, 26 percent oppose stem cell research on moral grounds, but only 13 percent oppose the Bush compromise. Strongly religious Catholics are slightly more likely to insist on a match between public policy and their personal moral views. Among Catholics for whom religion is very important, 20 percent oppose stem cell research on moral grounds and 14 percent want a complete ban.”

“Over the weekend, Bush won the spin war. On Thursday night, Gallup found that 50 percent approved Bush’s decision, 25 percent disapproved, and 25 percent were undecided. By Sunday night in the Ipsos-Reid poll, 62 percent approve, 32 percent disapprove, and 6 percent are not sure,” Riehle reported.



These are the findings of an Ipsos-Reid poll conducted between Friday, August 10 through Sunday, August 12, 2001. The poll is based on a randomly selected sample of 1,000 U.S. adults nationwide. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult U.S. population been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual U.S. population according to the most recent Census data.

For commentary please contact:

Thomas Riehle, President of Ipsos-Reid U.S. Public Affairs at

(202) 463-7300

thomas.riehle@ipsos-reid.com

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Detailed Results and Further Analysis

The following are a summary of some key subgroup tables.

1. As you may know, this kind of so-called stem cell research is being used by scientists trying to find cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, or diabetes. It involves using destroyed embryos discarded from fertility clinics that no longer need them. Do you favor or oppose using discarded embryos to conduct stem cell research to try to find cures for diseases such as those I mentioned?



	<i>All</i>	<i>Republican</i>	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Independent</i>
Favor	75	71	80	69
OPPOSE – TOTAL	19	24	15	22
(DK / NS)	6	5	5	9
Oppose / moral reasons	16	21	13	15
Oppose / other reasons	4	4	2	7

<i>Religion Very Important — NOT</i>				
	<i>All</i>	<i>Catholics</i>	<i>Protestant</i>	<i>Religious</i>
Favor	75	72	65	88
OPPOSE – TOTAL	19	22	29	9
(DK / NS)	6	6	6	3
Oppose / moral reasons	16	20	26	5
Oppose / other reasons	4	3	4	4

2. President Bush announced that federal funding would be allowed only for research using embryos that have already been destroyed. Scientists can continue to grow and harvest stem cells from those experiments already under way. President Bush also announced that no more embryos could ever be destroyed for future research that uses federal funds. Do you approve or disapprove of President Bush's decision to allow federal funding of stem cell research already under way using destroyed embryos, but banning any further destruction of embryos for future stem cell research?



	<i>All</i>	<i>Republican</i>	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Independent</i>
Approve	62	76	51	63
DISAPPROVE – TOTAL	32	18	43	30
(DK / NS)	6	6	6	7
<i>Reasons to Disapprove:</i>				
Want complete ban	10	6	12	10
Want no restrictions	20	9	28	15
Other reasons disapprove	3	3	4	4

<i>Religion Very Important — NOT</i>				
	<i>All</i>	<i>Catholics</i>	<i>Protestant</i>	<i>Religious</i>
Approve	62	67	69	52
DISAPPROVE – TOTAL	32	30	26	41
(DK / NS)	6	3	5	7
<i>Reasons to Disapprove:</i>				
Want complete ban	10	14	13	7
Want no restrictions	20	13	9	33
Other reasons disapprove	3	3	3	2



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For more information on this news release, please contact:

Thom Riehle
President & COO
U.S. Public Affairs
Ipsos-Reid
(202) 463-7300

OR

Andrew Stavisky
Research Manager

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