



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

**WHEREAS:** Over 100 million Americans and two billion other humans worldwide suffer from diseases that may eventually be treated more effectively or even cured with stem cells; and

**WHEREAS:** The umbilical cord, placenta, and amniotic fluid are rich in stem cells which may be used for scientific research and medical treatment without destroying embryos; and

**WHEREAS:** Stem cell research using stem cells from postnatal tissue and fluid has already resulted in treatments for anemia, leukemia, lymphoma, lupus, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, sickle cell disease, spinal cord injury, and Crohn's disease; and

**WHEREAS:** Stem cell therapies using stem cells from postnatal tissue and fluid are being studied for diseases as wide-ranging and diverse as corneal degeneration, heart disease, stroke, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's disease; and

**WHEREAS:** The donation, collection, and storage of stem cells collected from postnatal tissue and fluid should be encouraged so that such stem cells are available for both scientific research and medical treatment; and

**WHEREAS:** Ethical research in life science and regenerative medicine should be encouraged in this State.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY**

**ORDERED:** The Governor's Commission for Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Research and Medical Treatment, shall be created, for the purpose of establishing a network of postnatal tissue and fluid banks in partnership with one or more public or private colleges or universities, public or private hospitals, nonprofit organizations, or private firms in this state for the purpose of collecting and storing postnatal tissue and fluid.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** The Commission which shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Governor. Members may include representatives of Georgia's public or private colleges, universities, or medical schools, physicians licensed to

practice medicine in this state, the state's public or private hospitals, scientific researchers in umbilical cord stem cell research, medical ethicists with an accredited degree in medicine, medical ethics, or theology, and bio-science companies located in the state.

Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses by the state in accordance with the standard state travel regulations.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:**

The Commission shall be attached to the Georgia Department of Human Resources for administrative and budgetary purposes and shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (1) To promote awareness and encourage donation of postnatal tissue and fluid to public or private umbilical cord blood banks.
- (2) To develop a program to educate pregnant patients with respect to the banking of postnatal tissue and fluid to include: a) an explanation of the difference between public and private banking programs; b) the medical process involved in the collection and storage of postnatal tissue and fluid; c) the current and potential future medical uses of stored postnatal tissue and fluid; d) the benefits and risks involved in the banking of postnatal tissue and fluid; and e) the availability and cost of storing postnatal tissue and fluid in public and private umbilical cord blood banks.
- (3) To develop a plan to ensure that any person giving birth to a child in Georgia may have the opportunity to contribute postnatal tissue and fluid to a public or private umbilical cord blood bank.
- (4) To develop a plan to ensure that postnatal tissue and fluid collected is available for scientific research and medical treatment and to ensure compliance with all relevant national practice and quality standards relating to such use.
- (5) To educate public and private hospitals and physicians about the National Cord Blood Program and registration of postnatal tissue and fluid collected with registries operating in connection with the program.
- (6) To explore funding possibilities for research and medical treatment from both public and private sources.
- (7) To report the Governor on or before December 1, 2007 concerning the activities of the commission with recommendations for any legislation necessary or desirable to fulfill the goals of this Executive Order.

This 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2006.

  
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GOVERNOR