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### **Bishop reacts to reversal of ban on funding for embryonic stem cell research**

Bishop Curtis Guillory S.V.D., Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Beaumont, expressed his grave concerns today about the reversal of the government's ban on federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. In a statement released today, Bishop Guillory said, "While we can all agree that it is good to seek cures for the many diseases from which humanity suffers, we must never be willing to sacrifice the lives of the unborn for possible, and I stress only possible, treatments for disease." By executive order yesterday President Barack Obama reversed a policy banning government funding for embryonic stem cell research. In issuing today's statement, Bishop Guillory pointed out that most experts agree that research in adult stem cells has actually shown greater promise for real cures and treatments, without presenting ethical problems. Bishop Guillory went on to say, "In addition, there are recent developments that indicate it is possible to produce, from adult stem cells, stem cells with the same potential as those obtained from embryos, without requiring the destruction of a human life. This area holds great promise and is morally and ethically acceptable. Furthermore, embryonic stem cell research presents a very slippery slope for even further moral problems – a very troubling situation where, in the future, we could begin creating embryos just for research." Bishop Guillory also expressed his great concern for those suffering from illness. "The Church has great compassion for all those who are suffering, and I am in prayerful solidarity with them and those in the in the medical field who are looking for cures. However, it only makes sense that we should concentrate our efforts in adult stem cell research where there have been real results, and not in an area that not only holds less promise but is morally unacceptable," he said.