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Washington, DC -Louise
M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chair of the House Rules Committee, today issued the
following statement in light of President Obama's decision to lift the ban on

federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. A microbiologist with a Masters in Public Health, Rep. Slaughter has championed congressional efforts to fund stem cell research:

"Today President Obama ushers in a new era in science and medical research. By lifting the ban on federal funding for stem cells, President Obama is demonstrating his commitment to let scientists and doctors, not ideologues, guide potentially lifesaving advances in medicine.

For far too long, promising medical research has been put on hold. Stem cell research could provide the key to unlocking devastating medical mysteries from Alzheimer's to Parkinson's. At last, science can move forward. I commend President Obama for putting science at the forefront of his agenda."

Background:

Last year, Rep. Slaughter's bill, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), was signed into law. This groundbreaking law prevents health insurers from canceling, denying, refusing to renew, or changing the terms or premiums of coverage based solely on a genetic predisposition toward a specific disease. The law also bars employers from using an individual's genetic information when making hiring, firing, promotion, and other employment-related decisions.

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