

The Bee Foundation
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March 31, 2016

The Honorable Mark Kirk
U.S. Senate
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

The Honorable Joe Manchin
U.S. Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Senators Kirk, Manchin, and Collins:

On behalf of The Bee Foundation, we are pleased to offer our support for S. 2689, the Reliable and Effective Growth for Regenerative Health Options that Improve Wellness (REGROW) Act. We recognize that regenerative medicine, including stem cell and tissue-based treatments, is one of the most promising areas for the next generation of groundbreaking treatments. By addressing current impediments to developing safe regenerative medicine treatments, this legislation will expand options for patients and families affected by a variety of conditions, including brain aneurysms, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, and stroke.

The Bee Foundation is a Philadelphia-based 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to raising awareness of brain aneurysms and reducing the number of deaths caused by brain aneurysms through innovative research that changes lives. The Bee Foundation provides research grants to the brain aneurysm research community dedicated to the prevention of brain aneurysm ruptures. Given regenerative medicine's potential for restoring and establishing normal function in human cells, tissues, and organs, we see a future where regenerative medicine may be used to treat or prevent brain aneurysms.

As policymakers have recognized through the 21st Century Cures Initiative and similar efforts, it is critical to modernize the drug development process and expedite the delivery of cures to patients. According to the Bipartisan Policy Center, despite the increase in research and development spending over the last sixty years, the number of new drugs reaching the U.S. market has steadily declined. The REGROW Act establishes regulatory predictability for regenerative medicine, ensuring that medical advancements in this field reach patients and families as soon as they need them.

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The Bee Foundation appreciates your leadership and commitment in introducing bipartisan legislation on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Kondra".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Kreszl".

Christine Kondra and Erin Kreszl
Co-Founders, The Bee Foundation