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**STATEMENT BY SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY ON ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE PASSAGE OF THE BIPARTISAN STEM CELL BILL IN THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES**

***KENNEDY URGES SENATE ACTION***

Washington, D.C. – Today, Senator Edward M. Kennedy released the following statement on the one-year anniversary of the passage of bipartisan stem cell legislation in the House of Representatives:

“Today marks an anniversary none of us wanted to see. One year ago, the House voted for hope, for progress, and for patients. The Senate has been denied the opportunity to do the same. In that year, there have been 100 work days when the Senate has not even met -- yet still we are told there is no time to bring hope to millions of Americans with the promise of stem cell research.

Action is long overdue. Patients and their families will not tolerate more excuses to explain why the Senate continues to frustrate their hopes for new cures for spinal injury, Parkinson's Disease, diabetes, and many other illnesses. America is a nation founded on hope. But the hope that stem cell research brings to millions of patients and their families has been denied -- not once, but twice. First, by the arbitrary restrictions that the Bush Administration imposed on this lifesaving research, and again by the callous indifference of the Republican Senate leadership in blocking action on the bipartisan bill to end those restrictions that was approved overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives. It's time to vote for hope.”

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