

Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters

American Association of University Professors - American Federation of Teachers

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Rutgers Faculty Union Applauds Stem Cell Legislation

In Trenton today, Governor Jon Corzine will sign into law legislation recently passed by the State Legislature to fund stem cell research in New Jersey. The Rutgers union of faculty and teaching assistants, Rutgers Council of AAUP-AFT Chapters, applauds the Governor's vision. The legislation will support his efforts to grow the state economy as well as give hope to all those suffering from spinal cord injuries and illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease.

Under Senator Richard Codey's leadership as Acting Governor and State Senate President, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to release grant funds for embryonic stem cell research. With this new legislation, New Jersey will begin building research centers that allow research teams to better collaborate and will continue to fund individual research excellence.

"Hope for millions of people - in NJ, across the country, and around the world - takes a huge step forward today with Governor Corzine's signature," said Rutgers AAUP-AFT President Lisa C. Klein (Professor of Materials Science and Engineering.) "I'd also like to note that the state is currently funding research at existing laboratory space at Rutgers University and other research centers. With this legislation in place, New Jersey is poised to take advantage of federal research grants for embryonic stem cell research when they inevitably become available. We will be looking to Senators Lautenberg and Menendez for their leadership in the Senate and to all of our representatives in the House. Representatives Pallone and Holt have always shown strong leadership on this issue."

The Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters is jointly affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers and the American Association of University Professors. By virtue of its AFT affiliation, it is also a member of the AFL-CIO. The organization represents 5,500 professors, researchers, librarians, part-time lecturers, teaching/graduate research assistants, and professional staff at Rutgers three campuses.