Lt. Governor John Garamendi's Statement on University of California Stem Cell Research Moving Forward Efficiently with Federal Funding Unshackled

Washington D.C. – Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, a University of California regent who is responsible for appointing five members to the committee governing the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, issued the following statement on President Obama's executive order lifting the ban on federal funding for most embryonic stem cell research:

"I applaud President Obama's decision to free stem cell research from the strait jacket of President Bush. This action will lead to rapid advancement of critical medical research. Fortunately California has taken the lead nationally with the passage of the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative that provided state funding for stem cell research in California. As a University of California Regent, I have strongly supported the research on the UC campuses around the state. The federal restrictions now lifted by President Obama will end the foolish situation imposed by President Bush where state research had to be done on one side of the UC hall and federal research on the other side of the hall. Now the research efforts can go forward together," Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi said.