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Victorian Premier Backs Call For Stem Cell Research

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Richard Bowden - All Headline News Staff Writer

Melbourne, Victoria (AHN) - Victorian Premier Steve Bracks has reiterated his call for changes to the law allowing stem cell research in his state as the Victorian Parliament begins debating the issue today.

Mr Bracks said the change in the law will allow scientists to experiment on unfertilized eggs left over from IVF treatment and will benefit Victoria as the Australian leader in stem cell research.

Speaking to Parliament Mr Bracks said, "The consequence of not passing laws allowing it here would risk Australia falling behind the rest of the world because clearly this is an avenue of research which is afforded the majority of developed nations."

"Victoria does have the facilities, the technical ability and the vision to make the next great medical breakthrough," he said.

"I remain convinced that this legislation is the right thing to do and the right thing for this Parliament to consider and I will be certainly be voting for it."

Members of the Lower House will hold a conscience vote on the topic later this week.

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