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Call for prayers to beat stem cell bill

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Two MPs have called for the public to pray for the defeat of a bill that would overturn the ban on therapeutic cloning in NSW.

Christian Democrat MPs Fred Nile and Gordon Moyes have made their "urgent call to prayer" ahead of Tuesday's expected upper house vote on the bill that would clear the way for embryonic stem cell research.

"At this stage it seems the majority of members will vote for the bill, particularly female members, which is very disappointing as it is a conscience ... vote," Mr Nile and Mr Moyes said in a joint statement.

"However, with prayer it is possible to change members' attitudes and influence some who are still undecided."


Both Rev Nile and Dr Moyes have already spoken against the bill during debate in the Legislative Council.

The debate attracted additional attention after Sydney Catholic Archbishop Cardinal George Pell warned there would be "consequences" for Catholic members of the NSW parliament who voted in favour of the legislation.

The bill was subsequently passed by the lower house.

Cardinal Pell's comments will be investigated by the upper house Parliamentary Privileges Committee, which will examine whether his remarks were in contempt of parliament.

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