

Michigan Catholic Conference



12 July 2006

Dear Senator:

As you are aware the United States Senate will vote next week on legislation that will allow for the large-scale destruction of human embryos for research purposes. H.R. 810 is a dangerous measure that will permanently jeopardize human life, effectively imposing the will of the strong over the weak. I urge you to oppose this bill, and any congressional effort that allows for federal funding of embryonic stem cell research.

It is the belief of millions of Michigan citizens and this organization that in no way, shape or form should state or federal government allocate public tax dollars for the purpose of destructive human research. To that end, government has no right, whether through constitutional or natural law, to enact public policy measures for the purpose of creating or terminating human life. We are reminded that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with the certain unalienable rights of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Over the last several years the general public has become more familiar with the tremendous gains made by adult stem cell research, where useful stem cells are derived from such non life-threatening locations as umbilical cord blood, bone marrow and muscle tissue. This non-destructive method of research is currently treating some 70 debilitating diseases, and is doing so without the considerable ethical dilemmas that accompany researching embryonic stem cells, which, to date, have not yielded one single treatment.

While I urge your opposition to H.R. 810, I encourage you and the entire United States Senate to follow the lead of the Michigan Legislature, which recently introduced legislation to fund adult stem cell research with some \$5 million from the 21st Century Jobs Fund. Related measures have been introduced in the U.S. Senate; specifically, S. 2754 and S. 3504. These two pieces of legislation, respectfully, would fund efforts to derive and study cells that are not obtained from a human embryo but have significant capabilities, and bans trafficking in human fetal tissue (including stem cells) obtained from human embryos or fetuses created for that purpose.

Senator, the path that the United States Senate appears set to embark will have severe ramifications upon our federal government's commitment to the principles outlined in the Declaration of Independence. Indeed, the unalienable right to life must not be sacrificed in the hopes of research that is neither successful nor ethical. Again, I strongly urge your "no" note on H.R. 810 and ask for your support of S. 2754 and S. 3504.

With Warm Regards, I am

Sincerely,

Paul A. Long
Vice President, Public Policy