



Testimony to Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies
in Opposition to HB 151, An Act Clarifying Chapter 111L-Biotechnology
April 12, 2011

Massachusetts Family Institute is a non-profit public policy organization dedicated to strengthening the family and the traditional Judeo-Christian values upon which the family is based. I want to clearly go on record that we support stem cell research as long as it does not involve the destruction of human embryos.

Adult stem cells, including induced pluripotent stem cell technology to create embryonic stem cells from human skin cells, have proven to be successful in the treatment of 73 diseases and maladies ranging from Parkinson's disease and cycle cell anemia to severed spinal cords and restoration of sight.

Conversely, embryonic stem cells have not achieved one single cure to date. California has already spent \$3 billion on embryonic stem cell research without a single successful treatment. In fact, embryonic stem cells are highly prone to rejection and have a propensity for developing tumors. But the far darker side of embryonic stem cells is that they can only be obtained by the taking of innocent life. Life begins at conception, be it in the womb or in a Petri dish. Therapeutic cloning or somatic cell nuclear transfer cannot be performed without first destroying life in its earliest and most fragile form. We should not be creating life for the sole purpose of destroying it.

We oppose HB 151 because it is biased toward promoting the creation and destruction of human embryos to create embryonic stem cells, at the expense of promoting the proven use of adult stem cells, including induced pluripotent stem cell technology. Furthermore, we oppose HB 151 because it opens the door for the exploitation of women in offering financial incentives for the dangerous harvesting of female eggs to create embryonic stem cells. We agree with the United Nations in their opposition to the creation of human embryos solely for their destruction because it is a violation of human rights and an exploitation of women.

Human embryos are human subjects. The medical profession has known and acknowledged this for over a century. At this time in history, when modern technology has enabled us to unmistakably see and understand the intricacies of human development, we must appreciate and defend more than ever the standards of human dignity. We need legislation that promotes proven research. Adult stem cell research is clearly the answer to give us cures we can all live with.

Sincerely,

Kris Mineau
President

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