

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Missouri General Assembly

FROM: Pam Fichter, President
Gerard Nieters, Legislative Director

RE: MRL'S Position on Economic Development Legislation

DATE: February 22, 2010

The purpose of this memo is to review MRL's position on the varied and numerous jobs and economic development bills being proposed.

The basis for MRL's position has been provided in detail in many of MRL's testimonial statements on several previously introduced appropriations/tax incentive bills as well as being delivered to you in the form of numerous memos. This testimony is listed on MRL's website www.missourilife.org. You can also read all memo's previously distributed to you on this issue, both this year and last, on the MRL website.

To review MRL's position in a nutshell:

1. MRL generally takes no position on any economic development bill from manufacturing to construction to computer technology, etc. unless there are concerns of life destroying effects.
2. If a bill contains funding for life sciences research, biomedicine, nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals and similar industries, MRL opposes these bills because of the danger that these public funds could end up supporting cloning and embryonic stem cell research. A vote in favor of these bills constitutes a recorded bad vote by MRL.
3. A bill can include funding of life sciences research, biomedicine, nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals and similar industries, and as long as the bill contains the protective language of Missouri statute 196.1127, MRL will take a neutral position on the bill.
4. While MRL strongly prefers the pro-life language of 196.1127, another option of protective language worked out by the House and acceptable to MRL is: "It is not the intent of this section to include research as defined by Article III, section 38 (d) of the Missouri Constitution and this section shall be subject to the provisions of section 196.1127."

Please know that MRL addresses these matters with great urgency as soon as we become aware of an issue. Unfortunately, many bills, committee subs and amendments get introduced or added to bills and unrelated bills at the last minute. It is hoped that this memo will provide advance knowledge to the legislators what MRL's position is on issues of life sciences research, biomedical and pharmaceutical research, and any other research that could potentially threaten innocent human life.

We look forward to working with any and all legislators who seek protection for innocent human life and are willing to discuss our position with any legislator at any time.