

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Honorable Members of the House Budget Committee and  
Members of the Missouri House of Representatives

**FROM:** Pam Fichter, President  
Gerard Nieters, Legislative Director

**DATE:** February 13, 2012

**RE:** HB 2014 Supplemental Budget and MOSIRA

Missouri Right to Life is grateful to the House Budget Committee Members for voting to remove funding for MOSIRA last Wednesday. While the stated reason for the removal of the \$1,000,000 for MOSIRA was that the Department of Economic Development did not have a plan for these taxpayer dollars, we believe that this funding will reappear in the FY 2013 budget in the amount of \$3 or \$4 million of Missouri citizen's tax dollars.

Missouri Right to Life will continue to oppose funding for MOSIRA without the protections of 196.1127. This language provides the scientific definitions of human cloning and embryonic stem cell research and prevents tax dollars from funding life-destroying research. With this protective language, Missouri Right to Life will withdraw our opposition and will be neutral on MOSIRA.

The existing language of statute 196.1127 applies only to the Life Sciences Research Trust Fund. 196.1127 has never been ruled unconstitutional. When it was before Cole County Judge Richard Callahan, he voiced no opposition to the language and ruled that legislators have the right to designate or restrict funds in appropriation bills.

196.1127 placed on MOSIRA and the MTC in the appropriations process maintains consistency in statute with what we have done for the last 3 years on the MTC. There has never been a challenge of unconstitutionality in those 3 years on this 196.1127 language.

If funding for MOSIRA should be amended back into the supplemental budget, we ask that the language of 196.1127 be included.