



*Transforming society to respect and protect all innocent human life.*

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## BEING PRO-LIFE IS NOT JUST ABOUT ABORTION

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*The following letter was recently sent to all Missouri pro-life legislators by Missouri Right to Life.*

With advances in science and a better understanding of human DNA, and with the added threat of health care rationing, the need for protection of innocent human beings has expanded beyond what any of us thought we would see in our lifetimes. While many may still be singularly focused on abortion, it is not the only issue on which to base ones pro-life credentials.

Missouri Right to Life is concerned with all threats to innocent human life from the very beginning forward. It is erroneous and misleading when one portrays oneself as pro-life without a willingness to protect all innocent human life at every stage of development

As pro-life legislators, your consistency on all life issues is critically important to advancing the cause of life in Missouri. This means not only working to protect the lives of unborn children, to protect and inform mothers in crisis pregnancies, and to support alternatives to abortion programs. Being pro-life also means preventing euthanasia, infanticide, rationing of health care, and working to prevent human cloning and research that destroys human life.

Since the 2006 passage of Amendment 2 creating a constitutional right to

clone and kill human embryos in Missouri, the biotech industry has sought to fund this life-destroying research by accessing taxpayer money under various economic development schemes like the 2011 Missouri Science Innovation and Reinvestment Act (MOSIRA). Missouri Right to Life has consistently sought language in any such legislation that would provide pro-life protections.

While those who oppose our efforts claim we are anti-research, nothing could be further from the truth. We support

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research on human stem cells as long as those cells are not derived by destroying human embryos. We enthusiastically support research using adult stem cells or induced pluripotent stem cells. All successful research using stem cells has been as a result of using these non-embryonic sources.

Even the 2012 winner of the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine, Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, agrees with our position. When he saw that embryonic stem cell research destroyed a human

embryo, he realized that embryo could have been one of his daughters. As a scientist involved in stem cell research, Dr. Yamanaka was so concerned about research which destroyed human embryos that he sought another avenue for developing stem cells with the same degree of pluripotency. His efforts to find ethical alternatives led to his discovery of induced pluripotent stem cells, a method of stem cell development that creates pluripotent stem cells from adult stem cells with no destruction of human life. For this he received the Nobel Prize.

Yet the biotech industry and those who do their bidding refuse to abandon their commitment to unrestricted research regardless of the potential destruction of countless human lives and zero success from unethical sources. You will be pressured by lobbyists from this industry and members of your own caucus unwilling to accept this truth to support their anti-life agenda.

We are very blessed to have solid majorities in both houses of legislators that oppose abortion. These legislators have passed excellent legislation in past sessions regarding abortion, and we will work for additional anti-abortion legislation this year. However, abortion is not the only pro-life issue. We urge you to be strong and to stand up for life on all issues.