

**TESTIMONY OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE
IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2302
February 2, 2016**

On behalf of Missouri Right to Life, I submit the following testimony in opposition to HB 2302.

It is the mission of Missouri Right to Life (MRL) to protect every innocent human life at every stage of development. It is the threat to embryonic human life that brings us here to testify today.

While Missouri Right to Life is not averse to economic development and ethical research, when that development is built on the destruction of innocent human life at the embryonic stage, MRL will speak up.

HB 2302 establishes a process for awarding public monies to Business Development Corporations with the Missouri Technology Corporation being the organization that establishes qualifications. The full legislative body needs to give direction to the Missouri Technology Corporation on who can and cannot qualify for these tax credits and incentives. The Missouri Technology Corporation should not be the deciding organization of what can be done with public dollars. The Missouri Technology Corporation and those connected with the MTC are known supporters of human cloning and embryonic stem cell research which makes the pro-life protective language even more important to be included on HB 2302 in order to prevent public funding for abortion services, human cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

HB 2302 has the same concerns as discussed in past years regarding pharmaceuticals and biomedical research with no pro-life protective language to prevent human cloning, human embryonic stem cell research and research on aborted babies with public tax dollars and tax incentives. The pharmaceutical and biomedical industries have engaged in unethical medical research, including the killing of embryos and fetuses so our concerns are real.

Our legislators need to give clear direction as to what kind of research can and cannot be done with public monies or tax incentives awarded by The Missouri Technology Corporation. As stated above, the Missouri Technology Corporation has been tied to the bio tech life sciences research industry from its inception.

There have been complaints voiced in the past, by those who would profit from human cloning and the destruction of innocent human beings through embryonic stem cell research, that cloning researchers won't come to Missouri because the environment is unfriendly to human cloning. If they do not seek to do human cloning, embryonic stem cell research and research on aborted babies then the following pro-life protections should not be a problem. We are confident that restrictions are necessary in today's climate for pharmaceutical and biomedical research companies especially when we are talking about the use of any public (state or federal) moneys or tax credits or tax incentives.

Missouri Right to Life recommends the following language to assure that innocent human beings are not the victims of unethical research with state monies or incentives:

Public funds shall not be expended, paid, or granted to or on behalf of an existing or proposed research project that involves abortion services, human cloning, or prohibited human research as defined in section 196.1127.

Missouri Right to Life opposes any economic development legislation that includes only a reporting requirement for this life-destroying research. This position ignores the fact that you ask those doing human cloning and embryonic stem cell research to self-report, a reporting requirement does not cover the fact that the definition of human cloning

was changed in our constitution by the adoption of Amendment 2 so any report may not include the creation of human embryos through somatic cell nuclear transfer (human cloning) for scientific research, and the fact that reporting is after the fact of the loss of the lives of unknown numbers of innocent human beings.

Missouri Right to Life also opposes any economic development legislation that is dependent on pro-life language in a separate bill.

The above pro-life protective language should be placed on each bill that, in its substance, puts human lives at risk and opens the door for public funding of human cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

Until the above pro-life protections are addressed, Missouri Right to Life must take a position in opposition to HB 2302.