

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the Missouri House and Senate

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

**DATE:** April 4, 2012

**RE:** Observation on Stem Cell Research

While we stand firm in our opposition to human cloning and embryonic stem cell research, we continue to applaud the advances in adult stem cell research. Some use the terminology “stem cell research” without distinguishing between adult and embryonic stem cell research. This distinction is a matter of life and death.

Embryonic stem cell research always destroys an embryo - life at the earliest stage. This research has never produced a single successful treatment. While some claim that ESCR is necessary to access the most pluripotent stem cells, scientists now use the induced pluripotent stem cell (IPS) process to create pluripotent stem cells without destroying a human embryo.

Adult stem cells are derived from non-lethal sources like body fat and tooth pulp and have led to successful treatment for many maladies and diseases including spinal cord injury and Parkinson’s Disease.

Embryonic stem cell research is not necessary for research using pluripotent stem cells and has never been successful. Therefore, it’s difficult to determine the motivation for those who still advocate for research that has profound ethical and moral implications.

History has shown us that researchers need clear ethical boundaries when using human beings to do their research - even when those human beings are in the earliest stages of their development.

We encourage you to go to the website [www.stemcellresearchfacts.org](http://www.stemcellresearchfacts.org) and read all the exciting up-to-date information on the advances in adult stem cell research.

We also encourage you to continue to use the pro-life protections of 196.1127 in any legislation where it is necessary in order to give clear direction and boundaries to those entities that receive public tax dollars. Thank you for using the protections of 196.1127!