

House Votes to Sell MOHELA Assets; Paving the Way for Public Funding of Human Cloning and Life-Destroying Research

"Missouri Right to Life is profoundly disappointed at the passage of SB 389 in the Missouri House," said Pam Fichter, President of Missouri Right to Life. SB 389 creates the Lewis & Clark Discovery Fund, where the money from selling MOHELA assets is to be deposited. The purposes of the Fund include developing "innovative technologies" and commercializing them.

"The purposes of this bill are to allow state institutions and the Missouri Technology Corporation, a private company, to spend public money for facilities and programs that may end up destroying human life through cloning and embryonic stem cell research," said Fichter. "Attempts to restrict funding of such research were totally inadequate in light of the language of Amendment 2 now in the Missouri Constitution, which forbids any restrictions on the use of public money that would 'discourage' stem cell research or 'create disincentives' to any person engaging in it," said Fichter.

"While it is said there were assurances by the Governor and others that no funds would be used for unethical research, these assurances have no force in law. Unfortunately, they apparently swayed otherwise pro-life representatives into supporting SB 389. It was also announced in debate that one pro-life representative had been appointed to each of two boards overseeing use of the funds, but one vote on a board is no assurance that funding of unethical research will be prevented."

"This vote swings open the door to public funding of life-destroying research. Missouri Right to Life is disappointed in the outcome and in the willingness of some legislators who, while they opposed Amendment 2, voted for SB 389. The overwhelming majority of Missourians oppose cloning and embryonic stem cell research. Missouri Right to Life will continue its efforts to end this state's misguided foray into the 'brave new world' of creating human lives only to kill them for so-called research and cures," said President Fichter.

- [For the House votes on SB389 \(sale of MOHELA assets\) click here](#) (PDF File)
- [For the Senate votes on SB 389 \(sale of MOHELA assets\) click here](#) (PDF File)
- [For the Press Release on the Senate vote on SB 389 \(sale of MOHELA assets\) click here](#)