

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable Members of the 95<sup>th</sup> Missouri General Assembly

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

**DATE:** January 5, 2010

**RE:** Pro-Life Language for Life Sciences Legislation and Appropriations

Missouri Right to Life is aware of the difficulties that legislators have been having with legislation that deals with the funding of human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. Amendment 2 of 2006 has put great stress in all our lives. However, we believe Amendment 2 has put innocent human lives at high risk for abuse and destruction.

Last January Judge Richard Callahan stated in his ruling on Amendment 2 that the Missouri Legislature has the right to legislate on this issue. We believe this gives legislators the opportunity for legislators to place tight protective language on any life sciences legislation and/or appropriations bills, barring a contrary decision to Judge Callahan's. While Judge Callahan's ruling has been appealed and we question his analysis in the decision, there is no other controlling authority to the contrary at this time.

Judge Richard Callahan did not strike down the protective language of 196.1127 that is part of the Life Sciences Research Board initial language, but said it was ineffective to bind future legislative bodies from appropriating funds for embryonic stem cell research.

Missouri Right to Life has legitimate concerns about the terminology of open-ended "nanotechnology" and open-ended "biomaterials" language that has been used in recent years. Definitions of these two terms are open-ended enough that they could define an embryo as "biomaterial". And, open-ended "nanotechnology related to drug development" is a major concern in pharmaceutical testing of drugs on small human beings in their earliest stages of development. Therefore, we would suggest removal of these two terms of what life sciences monies can be used for.

For the reasons already mentioned, Missouri Right to Life suggests the following protective language for life sciences related legislation and appropriations:

“These funds shall be used exclusively on projects in the fields of animal science, plant science, medical devices, diagnostics, clinical imaging, or information technology related to human health and provided that no public funds shall 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 RSMo 196.1127.”

We sincerely hope that you will consider this protective language to ensure that abuses in research do not take place on the most innocent of human beings – the embryo.

We look forward to working with you this year and encourage you to visit with our legislative liaison, Susan Klein, if you have any questions or concerns about the life sciences issue or any other pro-life legislation.