

Missouri Right to Life Press Release

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For Information:

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Missouri House Votes to Fund Human Cloning And Embryonic Stem Cell Research

The following statement can be attributed to Pam Fichter, President Missouri Right to Life:

Today, the Missouri House followed the Missouri Senate in supporting public funding of human cloning and embryonic stem cell research by supporting the Senate version of the Missouri Science Innovation and Reinvestment Act (MOSIRA) by a vote of 94 yes, 48 no, with 17 legislators absent. Prior to the final vote on the SB 7, the House rejected a pro-life amendment supported by Missouri Right to Life preventing unethical research by a vote of 68 yes, 74 no, with 17 legislators not voting.

MOSIRA sets up a fund, channeled through the state budget, to be administered by the pro-cloning Missouri Technology Corporation, to provide state money and/or tax incentives for new technology businesses, including businesses engaged in human life sciences research. This legislation gives to the cloning industry the funding they sought with their deceitful \$30 million campaign for Amendment 2 which narrowly passed in 2006 largely because voters believed they were actually banning human cloning with their support.

In spite of the promise of those who funded the pro-Amendment 2 battle that they were not seeking public funding, their efforts to receive that funding have been relentless. Missouri Right to Life and a minority of legislators stood opposed to their efforts today.

Representative Randy Asbury (R-22) introduced the pro-life amendment and received floor support from Reps. Stanley Cox (R-118), Melissa Leach (R-137), Ed Schieffer (D-11), Linda Black (D-107), Nick Marshall (R-30), Wayne Wallingford (R-158), Bart Korman (R-99), John Cauthorn (R-21), and John McCaherty (R-90).

Speaking against the pro-life amendment were Representatives Anne Zerr (R-18), Ryan Silvey (R-38), Chris Kelly (D-24), Mike McGhee (R-122), Thomas Long (R-134) and Speaker-elect Tim Jones (R-89).

The votes on SB 7 show Missouri pro-life citizens which legislators are willing to be consistent in their pro-life principles and to stand up to the powerful pro-cloning lobby and those who do their bidding in the Missouri Capitol. Please click on the link below for the votes on SB 7.

SB 7 now moves to Governor Nixon's desk for approval. It was a sad day for Missouri pro-lifers, yet those who stood for life will always be victorious.