

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Missouri House and Senate

FROM: Pam Fichter, President
Steve Rupp, Vice-President
Gerard Nieters, Legislative Director

DATE: October 5, 2011

RE: SB 8 Without Pro-Life Protections

As you move to debate SB 8, Missouri Right to Life maintains support for the following language:

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.

This language prevents the public funding of unethical research and should be incorporated into SB 8. SB 8 contains open-ended definitions of a qualified company for jobs training and open-ended NAICS codes in the Quality Jobs special fund. These open-ended classifications could qualify research labs, including research and development in the field of human life sciences research, for public monies and tax incentives. This language should be placed in SB 8 to give pro-life protections in these areas.

We also cannot forget that SB 8 is tied to SB 7, MOSIRA, which does not include pro-life protections. SB 7 is the most anti-life bill ever passed by the Missouri legislature. It puts countless innocent human lives in their earliest stages of development at risk for being used as products of research in labs across Missouri for years to come. That alone would force Missouri Right to Life to oppose SB 8. Therefore, SB 8 should also include a section that places the above protective language in sections 348.250 – 348.275 of our Missouri statutes, MOSIRA.

While Missouri Right to Life supports Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) Tax Credits we cannot in good conscience, endorse the sacrificing of innocent human lives in the lab in order to receive money to save a baby in the womb. We know that people of faith will continue to carry the torch in their support for these PRC's across the state in order to save babies from abortion. And, we also know that these same people that oppose abortion and who support PRC's do not support the killing of embryos for the sake of a "jobs package".

Once again, don't be distracted by false arguments attacking Missouri Right to Life or diversionary tactics and claims that "reporting" language proposals offer pro-life protections. They do not ban public dollars from being used for unethical research which results in the destruction of innocent human beings.

We urge you to be consistent with effective pro-life language already in statute on the Life Sciences Research Trust Fund, but which does not apply to MOSIRA. We urge you to speak clearly like past legislators to protect innocent human lives.

Missouri Right to Life opposes SB 8 unless the above pro-life protections are included in these three sections: Quality Jobs special fund, the MO Jobs Training Program and sections 348.250 – 348.275 for MOSIRA since the two bills are linked together.

