

TESTIMONY OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE IN OPPOSITION TO HB 467 & 468

Note: Missouri Right to Life stands in opposition to HB 467 & 468 as introduced. We are working with Rep. John Diehl on pro-life amendments. Missouri Right to Life will continue to keep you informed of our position as we see further drafts and amendments to the bills.

On behalf of Missouri Right to Life, I submit the following testimony in opposition to HB's 467 & 468.

It is the mission of Missouri Right to Life (MRL) to protect every innocent human life at every stage of development. It is the threat to embryonic human life that brings us here to testify today. While Missouri Right to Life is not averse to economic development and ethical research, when that development is built on the destruction of innocent human life at the embryonic stage, MRL will speak up.

HB's 467 & 468 has the same concerns regarding pharmaceuticals and biomedical research with no protective language to prevent human embryonic stem cell research that we have voiced in previous years. The pharmaceutical and biomedical industries have engaged in unethical medical research, including the killing of embryos and fetuses so our concerns are real. Vaccines already exist that were developed from cells of aborted babies.

Setting up another commission to approve funding of life science projects, including those life sciences industries listed in the NAICS codes, without any restrictions is a serious concern of Missouri Right to Life. There have been complaints voiced in the media, by those who would profit from human cloning and the destruction of innocent human beings through embryonic stem cell research, that cloning researchers won't come to Missouri because the environment is unfriendly to human cloning. We are confident that restrictions are necessary in today's climate for pharmaceutical and biomedical research companies especially when we are talking about the use of any public (state or federal) moneys.

Missouri Right to Life recommends the following language to assure that innocent human beings are not the victims of unethical research:

“Any funds granted by the Missouri Science and Innovation Reinvestment Act 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.”

This language should also be placed in statute to direct any organization, like the Missouri Technology Corporation, who distributes funds through this act.

Another concern Missouri Right to Life has is the closing of records to find out what kind of research is being done with state monies.

This issue should also be addressed.

Until pro-life protections are addressed, Missouri Right to Life must take a position in opposition to HB's 467 & 468.