

## **TESTIMONY OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE IN OPPOSITION TO SB 248**

On behalf of Missouri Right to Life, we submit the following testimony in opposition to SB 248.

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.

SB 248 has the same concerns regarding pharmaceuticals and biomedical research with no protective language to prevent human embryonic stem cell research that we have voiced on other legislation. 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 or setting up another fund for “biotechnology” 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.

Because of these concerns, Missouri Right to Life must take a position in opposition to SB 248

Missouri Right to Life suggests the following protective language for SB 248:

“Any funds granted through the “Proof of Concept Technology Business Finance Program Act” shall be used exclusively on projects in the fields of animal health, information technology, communications technology, aerospace, electronics, robotics, medical devices and instruments, telecommunications, plant sciences, and energy 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.”