



Dedicated to Advancing Stem Cell Research

Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research

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June 18, 2008

Fofi Mendez
Director
Protect Families Protect Choice
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Dear Ms. Mendez:

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR) regarding the "Human Life Amendment" that is expected on Colorado's ballot in November. Our coalition and its 100 members strongly oppose the Human Life Amendment. CAMR represents the voices of patients, physicians, scientists, and academic institutions across the country in the hope that embryonic stem cell research will provide cures and better treatments for those who suffer from debilitating diseases and disorders. We have grassroots members from patient and other advocacy organizations in every state in the nation, including Colorado.

The proposed constitutional amendment in Colorado would extend constitutional rights to fertilized eggs by redefining what a person is legally. The language in the Colorado Human Life Amendment defines the moment of fertilization as the beginning of life and grants all constitutional rights to a fertilized egg. If passed, this constitutional amendment would ban all forms of embryonic stem cell research in the state of Colorado, including promising research now being conducted at the University of Colorado Denver. This research involves the conversion of human embryonic stem cells to dopamine producing neurons that have the potential to, someday, reverse the devastating effects of Parkinson's disease. But, if passed, this provision could make this and other promising research in the state of Colorado, criminal.

As you know, embryonic stem cell research could help nearly 100 million Americans suffering from cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, Parkinson's, spinal cord injuries, heart disease, ALS, and other devastating conditions for which treatments and cures must still be found. We support your efforts to oppose the Human Life Amendment and for your work to continue to allow important and ethical medical research in your state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Comstock Rick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Comstock Rick
President