



Dedicated to Advancing Stem Cell Research

Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research

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July 7, 2008

Mark A. Burton
Campaign Director
Stem Cell Research Ballot Question Committee (BQC)
P.O. Box 20216
Lansing, MI 48901
Via Email: burton2@mac.com

Dear Mr. Burton,

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR) regarding the pro stem cell ballot initiative you are leading in Michigan. Congratulations for submitting over 500,000 individual signatures in support of your initiative which ensures it will be on the ballot in November. Our coalition and our diverse, nationwide membership support your efforts and the ballot initiative.

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 Michigan. Attached is a list of our coalition membership for your information

Michigan has some of the strongest anti-stem cell research laws in the nation. We support any reasonable effort to overturn the current prohibitions in your state. We recently sent a letter to the Michigan Legislature in support of its efforts to lift certain restrictions through enacting bills such as SB 52. Your ballot initiative is another important way in which the state's bans on research could be lifted. Specifically, we support language in the initiative that modifies the state ban on any research in which a human embryo is imperiled or destroyed. The ballot initiative would allow research using embryos from fertility clinics if the embryos are no longer needed for pregnancy and are slated for disposal. This is similar to language in the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act that we strongly supported and worked to see successfully passed by majorities in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate multiple times. Unfortunately, President Bush has twice vetoed the bill and the federal restrictions on funding for embryonic stem cell research remain.

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 in the state to lift restrictions on important research. Your work offers hope to many, and a victory for the initiative in the fall would be a great step forward for stem cell research in our nation.

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

Attachment: CAMR Coalition Membership List