



*Dedicated to Advancing Stem Cell Research*

**Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research**

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June 20, 2008

The Honorable Andy Dillon  
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Michigan House Representatives  
Room 166 Capitol Building  
Lansing, MI 48909  
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Ph: 517.373.0857

The Honorable Mike Bishop  
Senate Majority Leader  
Michigan Senate  
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The Honorable Craig DeRoche  
Minority Leader  
Michigan House of Representatives  
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The Honorable Mark Schauer  
Minority Leader  
Michigan Senate  
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Dear Michigan Legislature Leadership:

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR) regarding legislation currently before the Michigan Legislature. Our coalition and its 100 members support SB 52, the Senate bill that would reverse Michigan's restrictions on important research. 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.

We applaud the efforts underway in your state to overturn some of the strictest anti-research laws in the country. While bills are under consideration in both the House of Representatives and in the Senate, we support the Senate version, SB 52, because it offers broader opportunities for ethical research. We particularly support language in SB 52 that permits somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT). We have technical questions regarding the definition for "non-therapeutic research" included in SB 52 and would like to work with you to clarify this provision. Nonetheless, we strongly support the spirit of the bill.

As you know, research using SCNT 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. A

reversal of Michigan's bans on this research could be a beacon of hope for those who are now suffering. The nation and the world would benefit greatly from such an important step forward.

Sincerely,

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

Amy Comstock Rick  
President

CC: Governor Jennifer Granholm  
Senator Gretchen Whitmer