



Dedicated to Advancing Stem Cell Research

Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research

2021 K Street, N.W., Suite 305 ♦ Washington D.C. 20006 ♦ 202.725.0339 ♦ www.camradvocacy.org

June 10, 2008

Montanans for Safe and Healthy Families
P.O. Box 215
Helena, MT 59624

Delivered via email: jen@fieldworks.com

Dear Montanans for Safe and Healthy Families:

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR) regarding the "CI-100" ballot initiative in Montana. Our coalition and its 100 member organizations strongly oppose this proposed amendment to the Montana Constitution. 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 Montana.

The proposed constitutional amendment would extend constitutional rights to fertilized eggs by redefining what is legally a person. The language in CI-100 defines the moment of fertilization as the beginning of life and grants all constitutional rights to a fertilized egg. These rights are separate from the pregnant woman. If passed, this constitutional amendment would ban all forms of embryonic stem cell research in the state of Montana and would make ethical scientists, researchers and doctors subject to maximum criminal punishment allowable under the state constitution.

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 CI-100 ballot 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 fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being particularly prominent.

Amy Comstock Rick
President