

Kansas bills seeking to restrict stem cell research

2007 Session

These bills would *criminalize some of the most promising research.*

House Bill 2252: A ban on SCNT research and cures

This bill would make it a crime...

- to use one of the most promising types of stem cell research. This technique, called somatic cell nuclear transfer or SCNT, is a way of making stem cells that are a genetic match for a patient.
- for any research institution, hospital or doctor to receive or provide the product of any SCNT research, including future cures.

Consequences: If HB 2252 became law, it would limit Kansas patients' access to any future stem cell treatments, even those approved by the federal government and available to patients from other states. Anyone convicted under its provisions could face 52 months in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Introduced 1/26

Health and Human Services Committee

House Bill 2254: A ban on embryonic stem cell research

This bill would make it a crime...

- to conduct embryonic stem cell research by outlawing any research that destroys an embryo.
- to donate embryos for research purposes or to donate sperm or eggs for embryonic stem cell research.

Consequences: The bill would prohibit all stem cell research in Kansas. It could impair the ability of our state's businesses and other institutions to recruit scientists, even those not working on stem cell research. It would prevent couples from donating surplus embryos from *in vitro* fertilization that would otherwise be discarded. Conviction could result in 52 months' prison time.

Introduced 1/26

Health and Human Services Committee

This bill would effectively prohibit any SCNT research at state institutions, including research using private funds.

House Bill 2255: A ban on SCNT at state institutions

This bill would prohibit any state agency from spending state money on research involving somatic cell nuclear transfer, or SCNT. It would also prohibit state-funded research institutions and hospitals (including those receiving Medicaid) from receiving or providing the product of any SCNT research — including future cures.

Consequences: No one has proposed state funding for SCNT research, but this could effectively prohibit all SCNT research at state institutions like KU Medical Center. Even research using private funds would be affected because the state owns KU Medical Center buildings and provides services and equipment used there.

Introduced 1/26

Health and Human Services Committee

This bill would write incorrect scientific terminology into state law.

House Bill 2098: The bad definitions bill

This bill would define scientific terms used in stem cell research, but the definitions conflict with those endorsed by the National Institutes of Health and the National Academies of Science, which are terms used by virtually all scientists. Some of the definitions do not recognize the difference between cloning that would lead to therapies or cures and cloning that would lead to the birth of new individuals.

Consequences: By disregarding standard scientific terminology, lawmakers might easily prevent hundreds of thousands of Kansas patients from benefiting from new medical procedures that could repair injuries and cure diseases for which there are currently no cures.

Introduced 1/18

Health and Human Services Committee

This bill would tie the hands of Kansas researchers and make Kansas patients second-class citizens.**House Bill 2403: The tissue replacement ban**

This bill would make it a crime...

- to combine human and animal tissues — such as injecting human cells into laboratory animals to test the safety of potential therapies and cures. This is a traditional research technique endorsed by the National Academies of Sciences as vital to ensuring that experimental drugs and tissue replacement therapies are safe for people.

Consequences: This bill would make criminals of any researchers who undertook the kind of preclinical testing that would be necessary to develop any adult or embryonic stem cell therapies. It would bar Kansans' access to the benefits of that research — regardless of where it was conducted — even though it is allowed by federal law and endorsed by our nation's premier scientific organization.

*Introduced 2/6
House Federal and State Affairs Committee*

This bill would write incorrect scientific terminology into state law.**House Bill 2291: More bad definitions**

This bill would create a fund for adult stem cell research that would offer donors a 50 percent credit on their state income taxes. The fund would be called the Pluripotent Nonembryonic Adult Stem Cell Research Fund.

Consequences: The title of the proposed research fund uses language that is scientifically wrong and that could impair any stem cell research in our state. Only embryonic stem cells are pluripotent — meaning that they can turn into any specialized cells in the human body. Adult stem cells are not pluripotent because they are already partially specialized. It would be risky for state law to identify them incorrectly. The Kansas Coalition for Lifesaving Cures supports *all* kinds of stem cell research, including work with adult stem cells, in the search to find cures.

*Introduced 1/30
House Federal and State Affairs Committee*
