

Tell your legislators what you think

Writing your legislator and expressing your opinion is an essential part of protecting stem cell research and cures in our state. You are the best advocates and defenders of this important issue. Your legislators answer to you — their constituents.

Hand-written letters are best. Taking the time to hand-write even a brief letter conveys the issue is important to you. Avoid form letters. Legislators often interpret form letters to mean the issue isn't that important to you.

Be courteous, even when expressing your views strongly or when writing to a legislator who may not support our position. Include some information about yourself and why you are writing — this makes your letter more personal and gives it greater impact.

Include your return address on both the letter and envelope. This lets your legislator know that you are a constituent who lives in his or her district — and many legislators will write back to you.

Writing your letter

1. Begin your letter by saying why you are writing. For example: "I am writing today to thank you for supporting lifesaving medical research and cures in Kansas."
2. Then say who you are — include personal information such as what you do, what town you live in, and why this issue is so important to you and your family.
3. Include one or two of the key points (at right) in your own words about why your legislator should vote to protect and support stem cell research.
4. Thank your legislator for taking the time to read your letter and encourage them to support stem cell research and cures in Kansas in the future.
5. Make sure you sign your letter and include your home address below your signature. This conveys your commitment to the cause and allows your legislator to write back. It also lets them know that you live in their district, and that you are a potential voter who may (or may not) support them in the next election.

Key points about stem cell research in Kansas

- Kansas patients should have access to any stem cell research and cures allowed under federal law and available to other Americans.
- Kansas voters, medical experts, medical organizations and patient groups overwhelmingly support all types of stem cell research to find lifesaving cures.
- Stem cells could provide cures for diseases and injuries — including diabetes, Parkinson's, MS, cancer, heart disease, ALS and spinal cord injury — that afflict hundreds of thousands of Kansas children and adults and millions of other Americans.
- State laws that would ban, criminalize or restrict important types of stem cell research would prohibit Kansas patients from having access to future stem cell therapies and cures and impose unfair and harmful restrictions on our medical researchers and medical institutions.