

## Working to Protect Stem Cell Research and Cures in Kansas

**Should Kansas patients have access to lifesaving stem cell cures that are allowed in our country and available to patients in other states?** That's the key issue that led to the formation of the Kansas Coalition for Lifesaving Cures. Our broad coalition includes concerned citizens throughout the state and dozens of medical and patient organizations – including the American Diabetes Association, Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International, American Parkinson Disease Association, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Project ALS and American Federation for Aging Research.

### Lifesaving medical research and cures are threatened in Kansas.

Here in Kansas, some politicians and groups are continuing their efforts to pass legislation that would ban, criminalize or restrict some of the most promising types of stem cell research in Kansas. Any such bans would prevent Kansas patients from having access to future stem cell therapies and cures, and would impose unfair and harmful restrictions on medical researchers and institutions in our state.

### Stem cells could save millions of lives.

More than 50 years of research on adult stem cells, taken from adult tissues, has produced such lifesaving treatments as bone marrow transplants for leukemia patients.

Now, the new frontier in stem cell research involves early, or embryonic, stem cells (ES cells). Unlike adult stem cells, ES cells have the potential to turn into and regenerate any type of cell or tissue in the human body.

As a result, **ES cells could provide cures for many currently incurable or common diseases and injuries, such as diabetes, Parkinson's, MS, cancer, heart disease, ALS and spinal cord injury.**

These devastating medical conditions afflict hundreds of thousands of Kansans and millions of other Americans – including a child, parent or grandparent in over half of all families.

One source of ES cells is leftover embryos at fertility clinics that would otherwise be destroyed. ES cells can also be produced with Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT), a process that uses a patient's own cells and an unfertilized human egg to make ES cells.

Most medical experts, medical organizations and patient groups strongly support the use of both types of ES cells for research and cures. Public polls also show that the majority of Kansans and other Americans support ES cell research and cures.

### Kansans deserve equal treatment.

**The Kansas Coalition for Lifesaving Cures' policy position is that any stem cell research, therapies or cures that are permitted by federal law should be allowed in Kansas – provided that such activities are conducted ethically and safely and do not involve human cloning to create babies.**

Like the overwhelming majority of medical experts, medical organizations and patient advocacy groups, we agree that ALL types of stem cell research should be pursued in the effort to find lifesaving cures, including research involving adult stem cells, SCNT and stem cells from leftover fertility clinic embryos that would otherwise be discarded. We also agree that human cloning to create babies should be banned.

### Supporting stem cell research also makes good economic sense for our state.

The potential to save lives and reduce human suffering is clearly the most important reason to support stem cell research, but it is not the only reason.

Ensuring that Kansas medical and research institutions can compete on a level playing field with institutions in other states and countries that are conducting stem cell research will attract millions of dollars in research investments to our state. That, in turn, will generate more state tax revenues for Kansas and quality jobs for Kansans. In addition, the development of stem cell cures for costly diseases, like diabetes, could eventually reduce state-funded Medicaid costs and other health care costs in Kansas by millions of dollars.

### You can help by joining our Coalition.

You can help protect stem cell research and cures by joining our Coalition. You can join online at our website at [www.KansasCures.com](http://www.KansasCures.com) or call us toll-free at 800-821-2658 and we'll send you a member form.

**Showing your support for stem cell research and cures will cost you nothing – but it could help save the life of someone you love. Thank you.**