

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Missouri House of Representatives

FROM: James S. Cole, General Counsel

RE: HCS HB 2058

DATE: March 12, 2008

Last year, Missouri Right to Life wrote to you in opposition to HCS HB 365, 804 & 805 (“HB 365” for short), which handed over to the Missouri Technology Corporation the authority to dole out \$10 million in tax credits for start-up enterprises. HB 365 of 2007 was not enacted. It appears that HCS HB 2058 of this year is somewhat of a substitute. Unfortunately, it still provides for Missouri Technology Corporation to have control over certain tax credits for start-up businesses, up to a maximum of \$5 million per year. (Sec. 348.274.5). Missouri Right to Life remains as opposed to this scheme this year as last year.

The state should not be funding in cash or by means of tax credits the destruction of human lives by anyone, whether by abortionists, by those who call themselves scientists, or those who call themselves businessmen. The president of Missouri Technology Corporation is still the president of the organization that sponsored Amendment 2 of 2006, Missouri Coalition for Lifesaving Cures, Inc. (“Missouri Coalition”). Despite the announcement last fall by two independent research teams that cloning is no longer necessary to achieve the goal of obtaining pluripotent human stem cells, the Missouri Coalition and its controllers, the Stowers Institute of Kansas City and others, remain committed to cloning and unethical experimentation on human embryos.

Under HCS HB 2058, the types of businesses that may be qualified by Missouri Technology Corporation for tax credits include “technology-based early stage Missouri companies.” (Sec. 348.274.1.) Qualifying business operations include research and development. (Sec. 348.273(4).) The Missouri Technology Corporation will make the determination of which businesses qualify as tax credit businesses. (Sec. 348.274.4.) Furthermore, the Missouri Technology Corporation will also control which investments in those companies are “qualified investments” that merit the tax credits. (Sec. 348.273(5).)

Under HCS HB 2048, the Missouri Technology Corporation is in control of the tax credits created under sec. 348.274. Because the leadership of the Corporation still adheres to cloning (especially SCNT), even though it is no longer necessary for stem cell research, and because Amendment 2 (Art. III, sec. 38(d)) still prohibits any state-sponsored restrictions on cloning activities by organizations such as the Corporation, Missouri Right to Life is opposed to HCS HB 2058.