

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Doug Mays at 1:40 p.m. on February 7, 2002 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Candy Ruff, Excused

Committee staff present: Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Shelia Pearman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Mary Cook
David Prentice, Ph.D.
Wesley J. Smith, Lawyer/Author
Jessica Welch

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Mays opened the hearing on **HB 2737 - Destructive Human Embryo Research Act.**

Representative Cook sponsored this bill which would make it unlawful to knowingly conduct destructive research with human embryos. She stated this legislation is patterned after the legislation currently pending in Congress. (Attachment #1)

Ms. Welch urged the committee to support **HB 2737** to stop human cloning and any destructive embryonic research. Despite a family disease which has alleged potential to benefit from this type of research, she stated creating human embryos for the purpose of research produces a moral dilemma taking funding away from adult stem cell research which have provided more immediate returns. (Attachment #2)

Dr. Prentice cited destructive human embryo research is unnecessary for medical progress inasmuch as less morally problematic alternatives exist thereby avoiding the ethical quandary of destroying some human beings for the potential benefit of others. forms of research which holds advances of significant kinds. He emphasized it is the committee's responsibility to make laws based on morality. (Attachment #3)

Mr. Smith stated this bill as well as **HB 2736** is important relative to research. He stated an embryo is human life, whether derived from fertilization or cloning and destructive embryonic research will lead to the dehumanization and objectification of human life. He urged the committee to support **HB 2737** because adult stem cell research offers great hope without the moral cost. (Attachment #4)

Written testimony was submitted by Mike Farmer, Kansas Catholic Conference Executive Directory, who reiterated the need to pass laws prohibiting destructive embryonic stem cell research cited by Dr. Prentice and Mr. Smith. He stated when American political life becomes an experiment on people rather than for and by them, it will no longer be worth conducting. (Attachment #5)

Written testimony was also submitted by Dr. Katherine Schooley, a Wichita Neonatologist, stating "conceived human beings should have the right to a full life, and no one should selectively remove that life for the benefit of another life. Once we begin doing this on embryos, the next logical path would be do this on premature infants, or older children." (Attachment #6)

The hearing on **HB 2737** was closed.

The committee meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is February 11, 2002.