

RESOLUTION 70 – 06A

Title: Stem Cell Legislation

Introduced by: Evangeline J. Spindler, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation

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Referred to: Reference Committee E

House Action:

Whereas, human embryonic stem cells (hESC) offer a window for studying the earliest stage of human development and disorders caused by specific gene defects, and

Whereas, the therapeutic potential from hESC research may include cell-based therapies for various metabolic and degenerative diseases as well as for transplantation and other areas of medicine, and

Whereas, the federally approved hESC lines were initially grown on mouse cells and might harbor mouse-specific viruses and other infectious agents, potentially exposing human subjects in clinical trials to unforeseen health risk, and

Whereas, techniques now exist to create and maintain hESC lines from discarded embryos from invitro fertilization procedures without using mouse cells and without exposing human subjects to undue risk, and

Whereas, the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) proteins of the transplanted hESC surface will have to match the HLA proteins of the recipient's cells, and

Whereas, combinations of HLA proteins vary considerably among the diverse racial and ethnic groups in Michigan and in America, and

Whereas, the existing federally approved cell lines would match mostly white Americans, putting non-white American groups at a severe disadvantage unless more diverse cell lines are developed, and

Whereas, therapeutic cloning via somatic cell nuclear transfer will be an important tool for addressing immuno compatibility issues and for developing new treatments, and

Whereas, two current Michigan laws (1978, 1999) prohibit the development of new cell lines and somatic nuclear transfer for therapeutic cloning, and

Whereas, such legal restrictions have already caused significant brain drain from Michigan with departures of prominent stem cell and other life-science researchers, severely curbing our state's goal of expanding life-sciences research as one of the means of diversifying Michigan's stagnant economy; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS support all relevant legislative efforts to actively expand the ability of Michigan scientists to legally develop new human embryonic stem cell lines and legally utilize somatic cell nuclear transfer for the discovery of new therapies for human diseases.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE