

Proposal 2

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ADDRESS HUMAN EMBRYO AND HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH IN MICHIGAN

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Expand use of human embryos for any research permitted under federal law subject to the following limits: the embryos –
 - are created for fertility treatment purposes;
 - are not suitable for implantation or are in excess of clinical needs;
 - would be discarded unless used for research;
 - were donated by the person seeking fertility treatment.
- Provide that stem cells cannot be taken from human embryos more than 14 days after cell division begins.
- Prohibit any person from selling or purchasing human embryos for stem cell research.
- Prohibit state and local laws that prevent, restrict or discourage stem cell research, future therapies and cures.

People voting YES on this amendment argue that:

- Stem cells hold great promise for researchers who are searching for effective treatments for people who are suffering from life-altering and debilitating diseases and injuries, such as Parkinson's disease, juvenile diabetes, spinal cord injuries, Alzheimer's disease and cancer.
- Using donated embryos that go unused in fertility treatments will allow doctors and researchers to find cures for serious diseases and debilitating injuries, including paralysis.
- Unused embryos from fertility treatments will be used only with the donors' consent to find life-saving cures, rather than being discarded as medical waste.
- This proposal will strictly prohibit the sale of human embryos for stem cell research.

People voting NO on this amendment argue that:

- Regulated human embryonic stem cell research is already legal in Michigan and has been conducted in the state for years. Unrestricted research on human embryos, however, is not legal.
- Federal law currently has no restrictions on human embryonic research. By allowing any research on human embryos that is permitted under federal law, the proposal would allow unregulated and unrestricted research in Michigan.
- Amending the constitution to allow unrestricted research on human embryos would remove the Legislature's ability to regulate stem cell research.
- Human life must be protected.