News Release

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Proposal 2 Goes Too Far
Senate Majority Leader & House Speaker Oppose Proposal 2

Lansing, MI —Senate Majority Leader Michael Bishop (R-Rochester) and Speaker of the House Andy Dillon (D-Redford Township) have joined the effort to oppose Proposal 2.

“Proposal 2, which would amend the state Constitution, contains many significant flaws and removes the Michigan Legislature from any authority over this growing unregulated industry,” said Majority Leader Bishop. “Proposal 2 goes too far and poses too many consequences, including opening the door to human cloning and closing the door for future legislative oversight.”

If passed, Proposal 2 would prohibit the Michigan Legislature and local government from enacting any laws that specifically provide oversight or accountability for any research related to stem cells.

The State Board of Canvassers today approved language for the proposal and gave it the designation as Proposal 2 for the November statewide ballot. Backers of Proposal 2 have stated they paid nearly $2 million to collect signatures to put the human embryo research initiative before voters.

MiCAUSE Co-chairs Senator Tom George (R-Kalamazoo), a practicing physician, and Patricia McDonald, who has been involved with health care for almost 30 years and is fighting metastatic cancer, were pleased to be joined by Senator Bishop and Speaker Dillon. “Over the next few weeks we will continue to announce a growing list of opponents to Proposal 2,” said Senator George.

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According to MiCAUSE, Proposal 2 is deceptive and goes too far:

Proponents are misleading voters when they say the proposal will “lift the ban” on human embryonic stem cell research. There is currently no ban on human embryonic stem cell research in Michigan. Proposal 2 specifically prohibits legislative oversight and regulation. Human embryo research would be the first and only industry completely immune from state and local law in Michigan. Proposal 2 opens the door to human cloning. Proponents claim the proposal strengthens the state ban on human cloning, but nothing in the proposed constitutional amendment bans cloning.

The first sentence of the proposal’s language reads: “Nothing in this section shall alter Michigan’s current prohibition on human cloning.” However, if Michigan law changes to allow human cloning, as currently pending legislation (Senate Bill 52) would do, Proposal 2 would then allow human cloning.

“Proponents of Proposal 2 are misleading Michigan citizens when they contend that the proposal strengthens Michigan’s anti-cloning laws,” added Bishop.

Human embryonic stem cell research proponents have confirmed their interest in pursuing human cloning in Michigan. In a July 3rd Detroit Free Press news article, the campaign director of the proposed amendment said that the ban on human cloning could be revisited once the general public becomes more familiar with the science. This would only be possible if the constitutional amendment allowed the law to be changed.

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