

Melissa Sweet

Health Policy 12/2/21

From: Stephen Rapundalo <Stephen@michbio.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 8:47 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Opposition to HB 5558
Attachments: PastedGraphic-1.tiff

Importance: High

Melissa,

I'd like to enter a formal **opposition to HB 5558 on behalf of the Michigan Biosciences Industry Association.**

I'll be submitting a formal letter subsequently, but probably not in time for today's hearing. In the meantime, our position is as follows:

The Michigan Biotechnology Industry Association (MichBio) supports federal and state policies that permit use of fetal tissue in research including public funding for such research within a framework of scientific, ethical, legal and practical guidelines. Furthermore, MichBio supports laws and governmental policies that prohibit human reproductive cloning. Fetal tissue research plays a critical role in advancing medical science due to many unique properties fetal cells have that adult cells do not; the plasticity and flexibility of these cells make them incredibly valuable to research as they divide, grow, and adapt to new environments far more rapidly than adult cells. This has provided key insight into both fetal development and disease progression, and has led to important breakthroughs in understanding and developing treatments for Type I diabetes, Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injury, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease and heart failure. And let's not forget how the use of fetal cells has been central to breakthroughs in developing life-saving vaccines for children and adults – including rubella, polio, varicella, flu and especially Covid.

Sincerely,



Stephen Rapundalo, PhD
President and CEO



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