



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

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## News Release

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# Legislature votes to ban funding for human cloning

*MCCL succeeds in helping to outlaw taxpayer funding of cloning*

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) today gave high marks to the Minnesota House and Senate for banning public funding of human cloning. The House today voted 71-60 to pass an amendment virtually identical to the Senate's Apr. 17 voice vote to outlaw taxpayer funding of human cloning.

"The Legislature has wisely ruled it unconscionable to fund the cloning of human life," said MCCL Executive Director Scott Fischbach. "MCCL is pleased that state lawmakers have established a clear ethical boundary which upholds the integrity of the human embryo and opposes the commodification of the human body."

[Human cloning](#) is a technique that combines an enucleated egg (nucleus removed) and the nucleus of a somatic cell to make a human being in the embryonic stage of development, according to the National Institutes of Health. [Somatic cell nuclear transfer](#), or SCNT, is the scientific term for cloning. SCNT can be used for therapeutic or reproductive purposes, but the initial stage that combines an enucleated egg and a somatic cell's nucleus is the same. Human cloning promises a means of large-scale production of human embryos for experiments, conjuring up gruesome images of embryo farming to manufacture and supply laboratories with raw human material.

Laboratories around the world are in competition to be the first to successfully clone a human being. The University of Minnesota's Stem Cell Institute is believed to be pursuing human cloning for research purposes.

The Legislature's ban on funding for human cloning was passed as an amendment to a higher education funding bill, S.F. 2083, in both chambers. The legislation prohibits the University of Minnesota from using taxpayer dollars to pursue human cloning.

The ban on public funding of human cloning moves the state closer to an all-out ban on all human cloning.

"Human life must be treated with dignity, not as mere raw material for experimentation," Fischbach said. "MCCL applauds the Legislature's move toward protecting life from replication, manipulation and devaluation."

MCCL is Minnesota's oldest and largest pro-life organization with more than 70,000 member families and 240 chapters across the state. For more information about MCCL, visit [www.mccl.org](http://www.mccl.org).

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*Minnesota's oldest and largest pro-life organization, MCCL has been dedicated for 40 years to the single issue of life itself.*