



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

**News Release**

[www.mccl.org](http://www.mccl.org)

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## **Gov. Pawlenty signs ban on taxpayer funding of human cloning**

*U of M prohibited from using taxpayer funds for human cloning*

ST. PAUL – Pro-life Governor Tim Pawlenty signed a ban on taxpayer funding of human cloning on Saturday, reported Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL), the state’s oldest and largest pro-life organization.

“MCCL applauds Governor Pawlenty and the state Legislature for establishing a clear ethical boundary which upholds the integrity of the human embryo and opposes the commodification of the human body,” said MCCL Executive Director Scott Fischbach. “The majority of Americans and Minnesotans oppose human cloning and do not want to be forced to pay for it.”

[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 language to ban funding of human cloning had been successfully amended into the higher education funding bill, S.F. 2083, in both the House and Senate. The provision proved to be contentious in Conference Committee negotiations, but ultimately was kept in the final version of the bill. The legislation prohibits the University of Minnesota from using taxpayer dollars to pursue human cloning.

“Human life must be treated with dignity, not as mere raw material for experimentation,” Fischbach said. “MCCL applauds this move by Governor Pawlenty and legislators toward protecting life from replication, manipulation and destruction.”

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.*

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