



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

News Release

www.mccl.org

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For more information, contact:

Bill Poehler, 612.825.6831

MCCL responds to U of M letter, University called upon to cease human cloning

U of M violating state law by destroying human embryos

MINNEAPOLIS – Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) has called on the University of Minnesota to cease its pursuit of human cloning and to end its violation of state law through its ongoing destruction of human embryos. The MCCL [statement](#) is in response to a [letter](#) in which the University accuses the state's oldest and largest pro-life organization of not telling the truth about the University's cloning and embryo-killing experiments.

“MCCL’s statements regarding the University of Minnesota’s pursuit of human cloning and its embryo-destructive research have always been accurate,” said Scott Fischbach, MCCL Executive Director. “The University’s letter only serves to highlight its own dishonest portrayal of its efforts to clone human beings.”

The University’s Wendy Burt, Academic Health Center director of public and community affairs, said recent MCCL news releases in question were “absolutely false” in stating that the University’s “Stem Cell Institute is believed to be pursuing human cloning for research purposes.” The MCCL news releases discussed state legislation to ban taxpayer funding of human cloning at the University. Dr. Frank Cerra, the University’s senior vice president for health sciences, wrote in an April 21, 2009, [letter](#) to Sen. Sandy Pappas: “This bill will stifle important *and ongoing* University of Minnesota research” (emphasis added). Cerra testified in a Higher Education Conference Committee meeting on May 4, 2009, that “therapeutic cloning ... is really at the core of much of the work we do.” He also said that “therapeutic cloning has great value.”

The only conclusion is that the Stem Cell Institute is engaged in human cloning, confirming the truth of MCCL’s statements.

In her letter, Burt attempts to disprove MCCL’s statements by arguing that “the University of Minnesota is opposed to reproductive cloning,” in which a human clone is implanted in a uterus and allowed to continue to grow. She carefully avoids any mention of so-called therapeutic cloning or the fact that both therapeutic and reproductive cloning use the same technique—somatic cell nuclear transfer or SCNT (which the [National Institutes of Health](#) has called “the scientific term for cloning”)—to produce a new human organism.

MCCL believes the University is in violation of the state’s Human Conceptus law, which prohibits “the use of a living human conceptus for any type of scientific, laboratory research or other experimentation except to protect the life or health of the conceptus” (Minnesota Statute 145.422).

“MCCL calls on the University to cease and desist all practices that harm any human conceptus,” Fischbach said. “As a publicly-funded higher education institution, the University must abide by the laws of our state.”

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.

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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.