

Pro-Life Wisconsin



Defending them all...

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Comprehensive Human Cloning Ban (Quotes and Talking Points)

Assembly Bill (AB) 499 / Senate Bill (SB) 243 would place a comprehensive ban on human cloning. AB 499, authored by **State Representative Steve Kestell**, and SB 243, authored by **State Senator Joe Leibham**, ban “reproductive cloning” –where a cloned person is brought to birth – and “therapeutic cloning” – where a cloned person is killed in the name of scientific progress. The ban also extends to human parthenogenesis, a form of reproduction in which the ovum is mechanically or chemically stimulated to develop into a new human individual without fertilization.

Quotes from President Bush:

“Advances in biomedical technology must never come at the expense of human conscience. As we seek what is possible, we must always ask what is right, and we must not forget that even the most noble ends do not justify any means.”

“...anything other than a total ban on human cloning would be unethical. Research cloning would contradict the most fundamental principle of medical ethics, that no human life should be exploited or extinguished for the benefit of another.”

Remarks by the President on Human Cloning Legislation, April 10, 2002.

Quote from HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson:

“...the President does not believe that “reproductive” and “research” cloning should be treated differently, given that they both require the creation, exploitation, and destruction of human embryos...the Administration could not support any measure that purported to ban “reproductive” cloning while authorizing “research” cloning, and I would recommend to the President that he veto such a bill.” Letter to Senator Sam Brownback, May 15, 2002

TALKING POINTS

Cloning turns people into commodities

- Cloning perverts God’s design for creating new life. In cloning, a child is not created; a new life is simply manufactured. A child becomes a product, and a product is never considered equal to its producer. It is inherently despotic in nature. Cloning thus affronts the dignity, equality and freedom of human life at its very beginning.

No matter what the intended use, cloning, by definition, results in the reproduction of new human life

- All cloning results in the creation of a new living human embryo that, while genetically identical to another person, is a distinct human life.

- Human embryologists authoritatively conclude that a human embryo is a human being, *immediately beginning at fertilization or cloning*. At no other logical or scientifically sound point can we say that human life begins. From its inception, the embryo contains its entire genetic makeup and needs only time to grow and develop into a recognizable human person.
- The distinction between reproductive and therapeutic cloning is illusory, and it is intentionally misleading. Both involve the reproduction of a fully human life. The difference lies in the intended use of that human embryo – whether it is to be implanted in the womb and brought to birth or whether it is to be destroyed by extracting its stem cells.
- “Therapeutic cloning” is really just the opposite, because it involves nontherapeutic experiments on a defenseless human being – experiments that kill the human being solely for the benefit of others.

Banning only “reproductive cloning” is cloning to kill

- Bans on only “reproductive cloning” claim to ban all human cloning, but would actually permit human cloning for experimental purposes and mandate that the cloned human embryos be destroyed. The only thing they would ban is the survival of persons created by cloning.
- Therapeutic cloning will pave the way for reproductive cloning. A ban only on “reproductive cloning” would permit the creation of human embryo farms. **President Bush** has warned that it will be next to impossible to prevent multitudes of cloned embryos from being implanted in wombs. According to the President, “Once cloned embryos (are) available, implantation would take place. Even the tightest regulations and strict policing would not prevent or detect the birth of cloned babies.”
- The **U.S. Department of Justice** has declared that a prohibition on transferring cloned human embryos into wombs would be unenforceable.

Reproductive cloning is an assault on human life (physically and psychologically)

- The primary argument against human cloning is straightforward and widely shared: it is dangerous. Cloning carries “massive risks of producing unhealthy, abnormal and malformed children,” according to Dr. Leon Kass, chairman of the President’s Council on Bioethics.
- Most cloned sheep embryos have died soon after being produced (during gestation or soon after birth) due to congenital disorders. The report of the one successfully cloned sheep in Scotland was preceded by 277 failures. One can reasonably expect that similar results would hold true for humans.
- Producing a child of known genetic makeup implies conditional parental acceptance, which is harmful to a child’s social and psychological development.

Parthenogenesis is a threat to human life

- Artificial parthenogenesis in animals typically results in incomplete and abnormal development. Experiments with human parthenogenesis can be expected to have similar results and are simply too risky.

Therapeutic cloning physically harms and financially exploits women

- Allowing therapeutic or research cloning would negatively impact women’s health and dignity. It would require countless numbers of women to donate their eggs through a painful and dangerous

extraction process, and it would turn women into human egg factories to be commercially exploited.

- Concerning women's health, the use of superovulatory drugs and the invasive egg extraction procedure are linked to grave health risks: severe pelvic pain, nausea, rupture of the ovaries, bleeding into the abdominal cavity, respiratory problems, liver dysfunction, blocking of blood vessels by blood clots, and on rare occasions surgery may be required which may leave a patient infertile.
- Concerning women's dignity, research cloning commodifies women by creating a massive market of female eggs that women would produce solely for monetary compensation. The trafficking of female body parts for cloning is a natural result, as is the victimization of marginalized women. Research cloning would undoubtedly initiate a new exploitation of women, especially those of low socioeconomic status.

Therapeutic cloning has not been proven effective in treating disease

- Therapeutic cloning is falling out of favor due to the astronomical expense, evidence of tissue rejection, and problems with gene expression in the cloned animal and human embryos.
- Therapeutic cloning has been unsuccessful in curing disease in animals and has produced serious genetic abnormalities.

Adult stem cells have been proven effective in treating numerous medical conditions

- Adult stem cells have proven benefits, and new uses are constantly being found.
- The current clinical use of adult stem cells has helped human patients with the following conditions: breast cancer, ovarian cancer, brain tumors, spinal cord repair, anemia, stroke, immunodeficiencies, blood and liver diseases, cardiac repair after heart attack, Type I diabetes (not stem cells, but pancreatic islet cells from donors), corneal damage (full vision restored in most patients treated in clinical trials).

***A ban on human cloning will not prohibit stem cell research at the UW**

- AB 499/SB 243 prohibits neither embryonic stem cell research nor adult stem cell research. What it does prohibit is somatic cell nuclear transfer, or SCNT, which is simply the scientific name for the human cloning procedure.
- Unlike Stanford University, researchers at the UW-Madison are not creating through cloning the human embryonic stem cells they are studying. Rather, they are using embryonic stem cells cultured in UW-Madison labs and extracted from embryos originally obtained from in-vitro fertilization clinics. AB 499/SB 243 would not affect this activity.

***A ban on human cloning will not hinder lifesaving medical research**

- AB 499/SB 243 allows animal cloning and current adult stem cell research – an ethical and effective alternative to embryonic stem cell research. How is this seen as stifling research?