

HeartBeats

Service From the Heart Since 1984

From the Director

Greetings! The elections are coming up quickly, and we hope that all of our supporters are registered - and planning - to vote! While we can't endorse any particular candidate, we can encourage you to consider some important issues when you're making your decision about whom to support. The one that is closest to our heart is the issue of abortion. We hope you agree that no candidate who supports abortion should be elected to public office. If you don't know where the candidates stand on this issue, you can find out on this website: www.californiaprolife.org (information for the November elections will be posted after 10/1/04).

If you aren't registered to vote, there are several Websites where you can register, including: www.family.org, www.nifla.org, and www.priestsforlife.org. Please do the research and VOTE!

In His Service,

Sharon Pearce
Director

Why Californian's Should Vote NO on Proposition 71

Proposition 71 amends the constitution to give scientists a "right" to conduct stem cell research - an unprecedented use of the amendment procedure.

Proposition 71 sets up a costly new bureaucracy, with no legislative oversight, that will dole out \$3 billion in taxpayers money.

Proposition 71 exempts the recipients of these tax dollars from California's Open Meeting laws when they deem it appropriate.

Proposition 71 requires a 70 percent vote in the Legislature before California's elected representatives can exercise budgetary oversight of how these funds are spent.

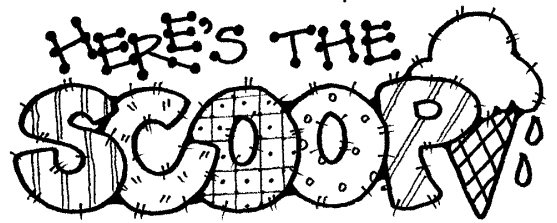
Proposition 71 funds cloning of human embryos, but disingenuously calls the procedure "somatic cell nuclear transfer" - in order to obscure the reality.

(Note: Proponents sued the Doctors, Patients & Taxpayers for Fiscal Responsibility Coalition to prevent them from claiming Proposition 71 funded human embryo cloning. The Judge ruled, after hearing testimony and reading a cell biology scientist's affidavit that "somatic cell nuclear transfer" was indeed cloning, pointing out that "that is really the heart of the debate.")

Proposition 71 will allow this new bureaucracy to adapt the standards for research involving human subjects "to the mission and objectives of the Institute."

Proposition 71 does not initially fund cord blood and adult stem cell research (because they receive funds from the NIH) even though such research has already produced more than 74 major medical breakthroughs.

(For more information, we recommend www.dptfr.org - Doctors, Patients & Taxpayers for Fiscal Responsibility.)



17th Annual Ice Cream Social & Auction

Friday, October 8, 2004
Clairemont Emmanuel
Baptist Church
2610 Galveston St
San Diego, CA 92110
Fellowship Hall
6:30-9:00PM

Children under age 10 must be left
in childcare that will be provided.

Admission: \$5

Donations are steadily coming in - but we
can always use more, so if you'd like to
donate an item/service to this year's
Auction, it's not too late!

Ethical Issues in Stem Cell Research

Stem cell research offers great promise for the future, and at the same time raises ethical questions that need close attention. Basically, stem cell research is divided into two groups: **embryonic** stem cell research, and **adult** stem cell research. The main ethical issues pertain to embryonic stem cell research.

The fundamental ethical compromise in embryonic stem cell research is this: any technology that creates or destroys human embryos for the purpose of medical research constitutes an assault on a developing life and on human dignity, and should be unacceptable to anyone who would oppose abortion.

Apart from the ethical questions, there have also been no scientific studies proving that embryonic stem cells are any more effective in creating new treatment therapies than adult stem cells. In fact, the opposite is true. "John Chute, then head of the Hematopoietic Stem Cell Studies Section at the Naval Medical Research Center, testified before Congress in September 2001: "These limitations of embryonic stem cells as a source of tissue for human transplantation should be openly and honestly presented to the public, since treatments and cures from these cells are not imminent."

(Embryonic Stem Cell Research: A Reality Check, March 2002, www.stemcellresearch.org)

Silent Voices believes that God is the Author of life, that all human life is valuable - born and preborn - and that abortion is never the answer to an unplanned, "crisis" pregnancy. We are dedicated to giving compassionate, practical assistance to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies, providing accurate information about the realities and possible consequences of abortion, and offering help, hope and healing through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ to women already struggling with the trauma of abortion.