

## *New York State Right to Life Committee, Inc.*

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### Empire State Stem Cell Board Decision to Pay Women for their Eggs for Research

On June 11, the Empire State Stem Cell Board voted - with one negative vote - to offer women between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for their eggs to be used for research.

Despite the fact that no cures have been developed from research on embryos and many positive results have been developed from adult stem cell research, the Committee was determined to authorize embryonic stem cell research - and to pay for the eggs to develop the embryos.

Despite new developments with pluripotent cells, which can be changed into embryonic-like stem cells, that area of research takes a back seat to embryonic stem cell research, which destroys living human beings.

Disregarding the scientific information in any biology text book that the embryo is a new human being, the Ethics Committee skipped over the agenda item that called for a discussion of the “dignity due to the embryo.” At several meetings the item was scratched claiming lack of time—and the Committee moved on to discuss the development of consent forms for donors to sign.

Once, probably in deference to Dr. Sulmasy, who was resigning because of a move to Chicago, the “embryo item” was placed on the agenda. After a brief presentation by Dr. Sulmasy, supported by Father Thomas Berg, the only two members of the committee who opposed embryonic stem cell research, (a third member, Msgr. William Smith died in January), the Committee moved on to further discussion of the consent form.

During the discussions of what should be included in the consent form, there was some discussion of possible side effects and agreement that long range consequences are still unknown. No one seemed concerned about the fact that women are being asked to sell their eggs without full knowledge of possible risks and with only a fairy dust hope of benefit to others.

While the National Institutes of Health and the states of CA and MA have all refused to pay women to donate their eggs for research and no other state has authorized such payments, the Empire State Stem Cell Board voted gleefully to pay between \$5000 and \$10000, thereby placing New York State on the “cutting edge” of stem cell research. Or is it careening down the slippery slope to Frankenstein science?

It is very sad that funds that should be directed to adult stem cell and pluripotent cell research, which do not destroy life, are going to be used to set up labs and train scientists for embryonic stem cell research-destroying children, threatening the health and fertility of women and helping no one.

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