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## Letter: Create transparency for embryo research

Legislation was recently introduced in the state Senate with the intent of filling several holes created by the November passage of Proposal 2, the ballot proposal that amended the state Constitution to allow for human embryos to be destroyed for research purposes.

Senate bills 647-652 seek to ensure transparency in this new industry and provide penalties for those who violate the law. For example, the Senate bills prohibit the creation of human-animal hybrid embryos. Other elements of the package include making it illegal to traffic cloned human embryos into the state, and would require researchers to be transparent about where embryos were obtained, how many were used in research, and how many are retained in storage.

A key component of the legislation mirrors a provision of federal embryo research guidelines recently proposed by the Obama administration, specifically that which prohibits human embryos from being created only to be destroyed later. These common-sense measures should be supported. In fact, the Senate bills are sponsored by both Democrats and Republicans, a key point missed in the June 19 article "Stem cell amendment could receive new restrictions, Legislature says."

The passage of these bills would in no way affect the outcome of Proposal 2, but would allow Michigan to take its first step toward transparency in human embryo research, a concept those on both sides of the issue should be able to come together and agree upon.

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