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## **Anti-Prop 2 ads hit new low**

The recent ad opposing stem cell research in Michigan, disgracefully suggesting that stem cell research would lead to a repeat of the horrific Tuskegee experiments, is a new low.

Stem cell research is one of the best new hopes for breakthrough cures and treatments for many diseases and injuries. Furthermore, it is a stringently regulated area of research.

Following the Tuskegee horrors, federal laws were enacted to prevent it from recurring. Today, the federal government regulates all human subjects' research, ensuring that it is beneficially and ethically conducted under the oversight of institutional review boards.

Researchers, especially in metropolitan Detroit, have spent decades trying to overcome the damage caused by the Tuskegee experiment. The medical community continues its efforts to regain the confidence of African Americans and to encourage them to join clinical studies so they can benefit from the most current treatments available.

As researchers, we must object to this gross distortion of the facts, clearly intended to elicit fear based on distortions. Michigan citizens should tune out these lies and support stem cell research.

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## **The ethics of destroying life**

Will we as Michigan citizens forfeit our right to debate the ethics of destroying human life for scientific research? Proposal 2 changes our constitution to do just that. It denies Michigan citizens' freedom to make our own ethical choices.

Certainly, we all hope for cures to terrible diseases and know friends and family who suffer, but the ethics of stem cell research are still agonizing. Are our sensibilities so numbed? The very terms "unwanted, discarded human embryos," casually used to justify this amendment, should shock us.

This difficult ethical issue should not be written into our Constitution.

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