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Letter: Embryonic stem cells are human life

by Siobhain Weston

After the election last week, I enjoyed watching "Horton Hears a Who" at the theatre. This insightful Dr. Seuss classic starred Horton, an elephant, who was able to save a whole community of seemingly invisible creatures.

His peers in the jungle thought he was losing his mind, since these "whos" couldn't be seen or initially heard. Finally, though, the other animals heard the tiny voices crying out for help and recognized Horton for the hero that he is. The chorus that rang out at the end of the flick was,

"A person is a person, no matter how small!" I couldn't help but think of the irony in that statement, having just passed a historic election.

Our great state just passed a proposal that will kill the tiniest of human cells. While it might be argued that these cells are frozen and not yet people, a simple study of biology tells us that they are human life. The rationale for using embryonic stem cells is that their destruction could possibly help those with incurable conditions such as diabetes and spinal cord injury. Embryonic stem cells have never cured any diseases, while adult stem cell use has made strides in the treatment of sickle cell anemia, and spinal cord injuries, to name a few.

Sure, I'd love to see the horrible autoimmune conditions that have afflicted my relatives wiped out, but at what cost? I'd personally rather bank on the proven track record of adult stem cell research.

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