

## **MIRS**

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### **Snyder Comes Out Against Stem Cell Reporting**

Gov. Rick **SNYDER** today criticized reporting requirements on embryonic stem cell research that are part of both House and Senate versions of the Higher Education budget.

*MIRS* asked Snyder at a press conference where he stood on language requiring universities to detail their research activities and if he'd like it taken out. That boilerplate language was added to the House Higher Ed budget in Appropriations subcommittee and an identical amendment last week was inserted into the budget that moved out of Senate Appropriations (See "[Social Issues Pop Into Higher Ed Budget](#)," 4/21/11).

"I think the Higher Education budget should be about higher education, not stem cells," Snyder said after speaking at the Governor's Education Summit at Michigan State University (MSU). "The people of this state passed a constitutional amendment some time ago and we should follow through."

Snyder was referring to Proposal A of 2008 lifting the ban on embryonic stem cell research. Snyder supported that effort.

This is a split with Republicans on the appropriations committees, all of whom voted to add the reporting language. This has been a big priority of Right to Life of Michigan (RTLTM), which opposed Proposal 2. Snyder's position supporting embryonic stem cell research was a big reason why RTLTM opposed his candidacy in the GOP gubernatorial primary last year.

Today, Senate Minority Leader Gretchen **WHITMER** (D-East Lansing), who worked on the pro-Proposal 2 campaign, praised Snyder.

"I'm glad to see that we agree on something," she said.

Dr. Sean **MORRISON**, director of the University of Michigan (U-M) Center for Stem Cell Biology, told *MIRS* on Friday that Michigan would be the only state in the country to institute reporting requirements on embryonic stem cell research (See "[Morrison: No Other State Has Stem Cell Reporting](#)," 4/22/11).