

ST. ANDREW'S OF CLAWSON

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

To the Honorable Members of The House Judiciary Committee
Lansing, Michigan

Those who attend St. Andrew's of Clawson each Sunday hear the following petition during the intercessions: *We pray for all who serve us in courts, legislatures, the military and the diplomatic corps.* By that I hope you know that we are mindful of all you do for us and our state.

On behalf of the congregation of St. Andrew's, I am urging you to ease the restrictions now enshrined in our state's statutes with regard to embryonic stem cell research.

As a pastor for some 43 years, I have ministered to people suffering from diabetes, dementia and a host of other diseases – individuals who would have benefited from the results of embryonic stem cell research – one of the most promising areas of exploration known to the science of modern medicine.

It is out of our utmost respect for life and the maximizing of its quality that we have come to see that research of the kind proposed in the legislation before you for consideration in no way envisions the wanton destruction of life.

Embryonic stem cell research would lead to the use of life's building blocks to regenerate, repair or replace already fully developed but malfunctioning cells, and thus mitigate the effects of diseases that end up destroying the lives of human beings.

Had my beloved stepmother been a beneficiary of such research, her last years might not have been lost to dementia. Carolyn Bedell Cook died just three weeks ago at age 83. For a year before her death, she did not recognize any of her children.

Thank you for all you do as our representatives in the Legislature. We ask you to do this one more thing that would make a world of difference to many thousands of our fellow Michiganders.

Sincerely,

(The Reverend) Harry T. Cook