

Resolution regarding Legislative Restrictions on Fetal Tissue Research

Whereas, the Wisconsin State Legislature is considering legislation that would limit the use of fetal tissues and cell lines in research;

Whereas, the legislation as currently written would criminalize UW-Madison researchers and others in Wisconsin from knowingly providing, receiving or using for experimentation a fetal body part including cells and cell lines;

Whereas, more than 100 laboratories at the University of Wisconsin-Madison utilize these materials for their research;

Whereas, researchers working with fetal tissue at UW-Madison must adhere to an institutional policy that is more rigorous and restrictive than current federal regulations;

Whereas, research utilizing fetal tissues and cells/cell lines including research done at UW-Madison has led to breakthrough discoveries, vaccine development and advances in other medical conditions directly benefiting nearly everyone in the state of Wisconsin, the nation and the world; and

Whereas, if passed this legislation would slow or halt the development of new therapies and cures for deadly and debilitating diseases;

Therefore be it resolved, the Academic Staff Assembly at the University of Wisconsin-Madison opposes the legislation as currently written; and

Therefore be it further resolved, the Academic Staff Assembly calls on the legislature and governor to remove language with implications for research from the bill.