

## **THE JACOBS REPORT**

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**Assistant Democratic Floor Leader**  
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**For Immediate Release**  
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### **MUHAMMAD ALI JOINS FIGHT FOR RESEARCH**

#### **Champ Signs Online Petition to Ease Stem Cell Restrictions**

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced that Muhammad Ali and his wife, Lonnie, have signed the online petition asking the state Legislature to ease stem cell research restrictions in Michigan. The Alis have joined over 7,800 other citizens who have signed the petition launched in July.

Muhammad Ali has been a champion for Parkinson's disease and stem cell research since being diagnosed with Parkinson's in 1982.

"Medical leaders, doctors, and scientists continue to work hard to discover cures using complex techniques to find the cause of the disease rather than just treat the symptoms, and stem cell research has the ability to do just that," Ali said. "We are joining Governor Granholm in encouraging all Michigan citizens to unite in the fight to ease the restrictions on stem cell research in Michigan."

Governor Granholm was grateful for the support. "I would like to thank Muhammad Ali and his wife, Lonnie, for their support and great leadership on this critical issue," she said. "Talented researchers and businesses around the world are working right now on cures for these devastating diseases through the promise stem cell research holds. These cures could have tremendous impact on the lives of Michigan citizens who live with these illnesses and could ease the pain felt by their families."

Congress has acted on the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. Despite overwhelming bipartisan support for the legislation in both the Senate and House, the president vetoed the legislation in July.

Granholm has been a consistent advocate of expanded stem cell research and called for the easing of Michigan's restrictions in her 2006 State of the State address.

### **PAY BENEFITS EXTENDED FOR MILITARY**

#### **State Employees Called into Active Duty Now Protected**

The Civil Service Commission (MCSC) authorized indefinite special pay and group insurance benefits for state employees called to active military duty after Sept. 11, 2001.

The action followed an executive directive signed by Governor Jennifer Granholm on September 26. Without this action, the special rules would have expired at the end of the fiscal year.

## **MARTINEZ: CHANGE A LIGHT**

### **Commissioner Encourages Cost and Energy Savings**

Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) Commissioner Monica Martinez is encouraging Michigan electric customers to reduce their electric bills by switching to energy efficient lighting products that can result in big savings. She made the announcement at a Marquette press conference this week as part of the national Change a Light, Change the World education campaign, sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

“If every household in Michigan switches only one light bulb to an energy efficient model, Michigan would save more than \$25 million in energy costs annually,” said Martinez. “Not only is it good for the pocketbook, but it’s good for the environment. Changing a single light bulb can prevent 500 pounds of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere over the bulb’s lifetime. That is equivalent to about 350 pounds of coal being burned.

“Michigan ranked tenth in last year’s campaign for the most people who took the ‘Change a Light’ pledge. Simply go to [energystar.gov/changealight](http://energystar.gov/changealight) to take the pledge and show your support for energy efficiency.”

Replacing 25 percent of the light bulbs in high-use areas of your home with compact fluorescent bulbs can result in reducing energy used for lighting by 50 percent or more.

Martinez noted that ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs save at least \$25 each over their lifetime in energy costs; last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs; use up to 75 percent less energy; can be used in most incandescent fixtures already in the home; and offer bright, warm light.

To promote energy efficiency and environmental stewardship, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has proclaimed October 4 as “Energy Star Change a Light, Change the World Day.”

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce air pollution through increased energy efficiency. Today, with assistance from the DOE, the ENERGY STAR program offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to save energy, money, and help protect the environment for future generations. More than 7,000 organizations have become ENERGY STAR partners and are committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes, and businesses. People are encouraged to take the ENERGY STAR “Change a Light” pledge on its Web site: [energystar.gov/changealight](http://energystar.gov/changealight).

More information about ENERGY STAR is also available toll-free by calling 1-888-STAR-YES.

The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

## **WIT, WISDOM, ETC . . .**

### **Quotables**

“People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.”

-Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

“Love is like quicksilver in the hand. Leave the fingers open and it stays. Clutch it, and it darts away.”

-Dorothy Parker

### **Quote of the Week: Douglas MacArthur**

“Age wrinkles the body. Quitting wrinkles the soul.”

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All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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