

STATE SENATOR • GRETCHEN WHITMER • 23<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

# Whitmer Press Release

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## **Whitmer Renews Call to Lift Michigan's Ban on Embryonic Stem Cell Research**

LANSING—Yesterday, three scientists were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their groundbreaking embryonic stem cell research, which helped to establish the role of individual genes in heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Today State Senator Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing) made the following statement about this announcement:

“First and foremost we have a moral obligation to save lives. Around the world others are saying yes to life and to researching lifesaving cures. In Michigan, we have closed that door. We cannot ignore the promise that embryonic stem cells may hold for treating heart disease, juvenile diabetes and cancer. How does it better promote a culture of life to throw embryos in the trash than to permit lifesaving research?”

“Three years ago the State of California passed a \$3 billion bond to finance stem cell research, and since then their recruitment of top scientists has outpaced every other state in the nation. Here in Michigan, our economic future depends on our ability to attract this type of investment and create 21<sup>st</sup> Century jobs. The people of Michigan support embryonic stem cell research three to one, and it is clear that our ban on this life-saving research is hindering economic growth and putting us at a strategic disadvantage. It is time for the Legislature to take action SB 52, my legislation that would remove the ban on embryonic stem cell research in Michigan.”

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