

Thanks to the Post Dispatch for bringing to the light of day Representative Jim Lembke's summary regarding the Missouri Stem Cell Initiative. He states that the reason for opposing the Initiative is that its intent is "cash, not cures."

Lembke must think that most Missourians don't have Internet access and those who do can't read. Anyone who visits www.missouricures.com can look over the list of the initiative's endorsing entities. It includes such "greedy corporate interests" as the National Council on Spinal Cord Injury, the American Diabetes Association and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, not to mention the many "money grubbing" concerns such as Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Missouri.

But let's give Mr. Lembke some credit. After all, he may have discovered that the Stem Cell Initiative is also supported by a "stealthy" organization called the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR). Aha! Certainly THEY must be a front for conglomerate bloodsuckers, driven solely by avarice. Let's drill down through this massive corporate maze and uncover who's shrouded behind that "corporate veil," shall we?

Oh my! It's such "dastardly concerns" as American Foundation for AIDS Research, American Parkinson's Disease Association, California Institute of Technology, Columbia University Medical Center, Cornell University, Duke University Medical Center, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Rutgers University, Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, Stanford University, University of California System, University of Minnesota, University of Rochester Medical Center, University of Southern California, University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Vanderbilt University and Medical Center and many others – nearly 100 in all. Whew!

I want to take a moment to thank Representative Lembke for sharing, and more particularly for motivating our research into this "greedy group." How else would we know that all those organizations SUPPORT the Missouri Stem Cell Initiative!

Thanks, Jim. You convinced me. I'll be voting FOR the initiative.

Jeff Eisen