

Vote NO on Proposition 71

Venture capitalist and biotech companies have paid millions of dollars to put Prop 71 on the ballot to obtain taxpayer money to do research that private companies are unwilling to fund because of the low probability of success. This page describes the numerous bad provisions created by this constitutional amendment.

Costs

Prop 71 will take 6 billion dollars from the State's general fund—money that would have gone to fund vital state services like schools and roads.

Limited research funding

Prop 71 funds research only for human cloning and embryo destruction. If this measure were really about finding cures, it would fund adult and cord stem cell research, which is currently used to treat over 70 different diseases.

Who gets the royalties?

Prop 71 does not require that one single penny of patent and royalty revenues from future research be returned to California taxpayers. The “Institute” established by Proposition 71 may, at its discretion, have taxpayers pay 100% of the costs, and award venture capitalists with 100% of the profits.

Healthcare cost savings?

Supporters of Prop 71 claim that the measure will reduce healthcare costs. However, the costs to obtain the human eggs to clone one cell line are greater than \$200,000! Factoring in the other medical costs would result in a cost of \$500,000 to treat just one patient! This will promote healthcare for the rich and famous, but not those of us on limited healthcare plans.

Backroom meetings

Prop 71 provisions allow for closed-door meetings to discuss patents deals.

Exploitation of women

The need to obtain hundreds of thousands of human eggs for research will jeopardize the lives of thousands of women, who will be given powerful and dangerous drugs to obtain their eggs. Dozens have died already and hundreds have been hospitalized through the use of these drugs.

Patient rights modifications

Prop 71 changes standards for patient informed consent and rights (required for all medical research studies and procedures). There is no reason to compromise patient safeguards and rights.

Hiding the purpose of Prop 71

Proposition 71 funds research to clone human embryos. Curiously, if you examine the text, you won't find any mention of human embryos. All the words are coded in scientific or vague terms to keep this information away from the California voter:

Code Words	Real Meaning
pluripotent stem cells	stem cells grown by destroying human embryos
products of in vitro fertilization treatments	human embryos
somatic cell nuclear transfer	cloning human embryos