



Written Testimony of Emily Hoegler
Policy Counsel, Americans United for Life
In Support of House Bill No. 1292
Submitted to the House Committee on Judiciary
February 11, 2026

Dear Chair Lynn and Vice-Chair Mannion, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Emily Hoegler, and I serve as Policy Counsel at Americans United for Life (“AUL”). Established in 1971, AUL is a national law and policy nonprofit organization with a specialization in abortion, end-of-life issues, and bioethics law. AUL publishes pro-life model legislation and policy guides on end-of-life issues,¹ tracks state bioethics legislation,² and regularly testifies on pro-life legislation in Congress and the states.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill No. 1292 (“H.B. 1292”). It is in my opinion that the bill 1) recognizes the dignity of prenatal life by prohibiting the use of aborted preborn children’s certain stem cell treatments, and 2) highlights the need for New Hampshire to pursue additional policies that protect embryonic preborn children from destructive research. I urge this Committee to support H.B. 1292.

I. H.B. 1292 Protects Preborn Children by Prohibiting the Unethical Use of Aborted Children in Stem Cells Treatments.

*New Hampshire has a legitimate interest in protecting the lives of preborn children. In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the United States Supreme*

¹ *Pro-Life Model Legislation and Guides*, AMS. UNITED FOR LIFE, <https://aul.org/law-and-policy/> (last visited Feb. 10, 2026). AUL is the original drafter of many of the hundreds of pro-life bills enacted in the States in recent years. See Olga Khazan, *Planning the End of Abortion*, ATLANTIC (July 16, 2020), www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/07/what-pro-life-activists-really-want/398297/ (“State legislatures have enacted a slew of abortion restrictions in recent years. Americans United for Life wrote most of them.”); see also Anne Ryman & Matt Wynn, *For Anti-Abortion Activists, Success of ‘Heartbeat’ Bills was 10 Years in the Making*, CTR. FOR PUB. INTEGRITY (Jun. 20, 2019), <https://publicintegrity.org/politics/state-politics/copy-paste-legislate/for-anti-abortion-activists-success-of-heartbeat-bills-was-10-years-in-the-making/> (“The USA TODAY/Arizona Republic analysis found Americans United for Life was behind the bulk of the more than 400 copycat [anti-abortion] bills introduced in 41 states.”).

² *Defending Life: State Legislation Tracker*, AMS. UNITED FOR LIFE, <https://aul.org/law-and-policy/state-legislation-tracker/> (last visited Feb. 10, 2026).

*Court recognized that states have an interest in the “respect for and preservation of prenatal life at all stages of development; the protection of maternal health and safety; the elimination of particularly gruesome or barbaric medical procedures; the preservation of the integrity of the medical profession; [and] the mitigation of fetal pain”³ New Hampshire’s own Supreme Court affirmed this principle in *Bennett v. Hymers*, establishing that a “fetus from the time of conception becomes a separate organism and remains so throughout its life.”⁴ Under our federalist system, New Hampshire has the authority to create and enforce laws that improve the health and welfare of its citizens, including the youngest members of the human family.*

H.B. 1292 furthers the state’s interest in preserving prenatal life by ensuring that the stem cells of aborted preborn children are not used for certain stem cell treatments under the state’s Right to Try Act. H.B. 1292 not only acknowledges the human dignity of preborn children, but it also disincentivizes stem cell research using human embryos. Embryonic stem cell research requires the destruction of a living human embryo. The way this research is done is by artificially conceiving a human embryo through either joining sperm and egg or by a cloning technique. The new human embryo is allowed to live and grow for a few days until it reaches the blastocyst stage – a point where the embryo is a few hundred cells in size. At that point, the embryo is broken apart so that the inner cell mass of embryonic stem cells can be harvested and used for research. This process necessarily destroys this nascent human life.

Not only is it unethical to destroy human life in this way, but it is also completely unnecessary. Ethically retrieved fetal stem cells from sources such as umbilical cord blood, or adult stem cells from placental tissue and bone marrow have already resulted in successful treatments for various conditions, including anemia, leukemia, lymphoma, lupus, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, sickle cell disease, spinal cord injuries, and Crohn’s disease. Overall adult stem cells have shown efficacy for well over 80 different diseases and conditions, as documented in published, peer-reviewed literature. Over one million people have been treated with adult stem cells.⁵ Conversely, there is no evidence that embryonic stem cells are clearly effective in treating any human condition or disease. H.B. 1292 draws a significant ethical line that should be preserved by promoting these alternative, ethical sources of stem cells for treatments and prohibiting unethical sources of stem cells.

II. H.B. 1292 Highlights the State’s Need for Additional Safeguards Against Destructive Embryonic Stem Cell Research

While H.B. 1292 is a good first step in preserving the dignity of preborn children from unethical destructive embryonic research, we strongly encourage this Committee to also pursue policies that prohibit the use of such destructive research in all

³ *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Org.*, 142 S. Ct. 2228, 2284 (2022) (internal citations omitted).

⁴ *Bennett v. Hymers*, 147 A.2d 108, 110 (1958).

⁵ *Fact Sheet: Adult Stem Cell Research and Transplants*, CHARLOTTE LOZIER INST. (Nov. 21, 2017), <https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-adult-stem-cell-research-transplants/>.

circumstances. Currently, New Hampshire does not prohibit the use of embryonic stem cells in stem cell research. However, several states acknowledge the unethical nature of embryonic stem cell research and prohibit it in some capacity. These states include Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and South Dakota.

Furthermore, New Hampshire can promote ethical adult stem cell research in several additional ways. For example, the state can establish an educational program to ensure that all pregnant women are informed of the opportunity to donate umbilical cord blood following the births of their children; create a fund to award grants to researchers performing adult stem cell research; or create an option in the tax code allowing taxpayers to donate their refunds to fund adult stem cell research.

*AUL has drafted model bills to protect preborn children from destructive embryonic research, including the *Real Hope for Patients Act*. This bill was created to suggest a number of potential avenues for states to encourage adult stem cell research. Ultimately, funding adult stem cell research is both ethical and practical and, importantly, adult stem cell research has proven potential for saving lives. Thus, I encourage this Committee to pursue similar policies.*

III. Conclusion

In sum, by prohibiting the use of aborted children's stem cells in treatments for severe illnesses, H.B. 1292 furthers New Hampshire's interest in preserving prenatal life and promotes the use of ethical adult stem cell research. I urge the Committee's support of this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,



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AMERICANS UNITED FOR LIFE