

## **Janet Parshall Commentary**

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Just in the nick of time! That's what many of us thought when a federal judge ruled on Monday that President Obama's embryonic stem cell research policy violates a ban on federal dollars being used in the destruction of human embryos.

Last year, the President signed an Executive Order that did two things: a) expanded federal funding for research and experimentation and b) removed limitations on embryonic stem cell research. That Order immediately prompted the filing of a lawsuit by several pro-life groups.

The pro-life groups felt that existing law was clear – that no tax payer dollars could be used to destroy little human beings for experimentation. And let's not be confused here by the manipulation of language. Human embryos are HUMAN. They are not potential life – they are LIFE with potential. Every person within the sound of my voice started out at a human embryo. Scientific advances without moral parameters lead to cultural chaos.

The law suit, originally dismissed by the Federal District Court in D.C, was a decision reversed in June by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. When the court remanded the suit back to the Federal District Court, Judge Royce Lamberth ruled that the federal language outlawing tax dollars for human experimentation was plain and clear. He wrote:

“...the question before the Court is whether Embryonic Stem Cell research is research in which a human embryo is destroyed. And the Court concluded definitively, “it is.”

The paradox in this highly contested issue is that the private sector of the bio-tech world has been moving forward with ADULT stem cell research because that is where successful results are found. Clinical trials with adult stem cells have reversed effects on diseases like

rheumatoid arthritis, MS and lupus, to name a few. More than 70 different diseases have been treated or investigated by adult stem cells.

On the other hand, great promises have been made about the *potential* positive results of embryonic stem cell research but so far, they are no more than that – promises, promises that are made but *cannot* be delivered. There is only one clinical trial with embryonic stem cells. If the American people want to get something out of their tax dollars – adult stem cell research is by far more profitable.

But it is also something else – it is ethical. The clarity of Judge Lambreth’s decision underscores the morality of this issue. We, as a nation, have rejected the utilitarian idea that hurting the few for the benefit of the many is not a value we extol. Rather, we believe it is our collective mandate to protect the most vulnerable among us – and the smallest human being is indeed the most vulnerable.

The science of this debate may make your eyes glaze over, but the wisdom of Dr. Seuss summarizes this issue perfectly. He wrote in HORTON HEARS A WHO the words that encapsulate the point perfectly.

“A person’s a person – no matter how small”

That’s my opinion. For Moody radio, I’m Janet Parshall.