



February 11, 2022

Senator Mike Thompson

Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 373

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the committee,

As a member of the Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center Advisory Board, I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 373 to provide the necessary funds for them to continue their work on cell-based smart therapy that can and will save lives of patients facing out of control inflammation...something called a cytokine storm.

As a member of the board, I have seen the researchers at Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center (MSCTC) demonstrate that the therapies they are developing have the potential to fill a needed gap in the treatment of life-threatening diseases like Graft Versus Host disease where transplant patients immune system attacks their own body.

The scientists at MSCTC have shown me, and others on the board, that they don't just talk the talk...they walk the walk...and have proof that they can produce the work needed to advance this therapy to practical widespread uses for these most critical of patients. This state funding is necessary for them to perform more studies on a small group of patents so that they can qualify for greater funding from the National Institute of Health for funding that will help them take these therapeutics to Phase II of the clinical trials.

Their therapies also show promise in treating the most severe COVID patients who face severe inflammation and a similar auto immune response.

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I am sure you will hear much more detail in the expert testimony from Dr. Prentice and Dr. Shirley, but the bottom line is that the MSCTC is right here in Kansas, and it is putting us on the map as a groundbreaking center for therapeutics using adult stem cells...and we can help ensure that the MSCTC and Kansas is the place to go in the future for amazing solutions to healthcare issues that you cannot find elsewhere.

Please vote for SB373 and be part of the lifesaving efforts at the Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center!

Sincerely,

*Mike Thompson*

Senator, 10<sup>th</sup> District