

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 3-30-05
SI 18

STATEMENT FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
REGARDING SENATOR KEN TOOLE'S STEM CELL BILL

I am Winston Swift from Helena.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to voice my opinions in this public forum.

There is controversy regarding research on stem cells obtained from human embryos. Some believe that the embryo, which my dictionary defines as "an unborn human in the first eight weeks of development" should be protected under the law from the moment of conception. Others do not believe this. I am among those who do not. I believe that an embryo is part of a woman's body, and so is protected by laws that pertain to that woman.

I regard a fertilized human egg in a petri dish as a donor organ, like a kidney or a heart. The donation of a human egg for the advancement of medical science is a noble deed, and I am grateful to all such donors. I have Parkinson's Disease, and so I have a personal interest in the research being done.

My personal experience is that a regimen of pills and exercise controls my symptoms effectively. Without this regimen, I would not be able to work, to earn a living, to pursue my interests, or do the important things in life, such as speaking before this committee. However, there is still no cure for Parkinson's. Its cause is unknown. There is not even a treatment to slow its advance. Currently, researchers believe that stem cell research provides a promising chance for the treatment and cure of Parkinson's Disease.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Winston Swift
1908-1/2 Winnie Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-1729