UW-Madison Faculty Senate Resolution
Regarding Legislative Restrictions on Fetal Tissue Research

Whereas the Wisconsin State Legislature is considering legislation (AB 305/SB 260) that would limit the use of fetal tissues and cell strains/lines in research;

Whereas the legislation as currently written would criminalize UW-Madison researchers and others in Wisconsin for knowingly providing, receiving or using for experimentation a fetal body part including newly derived cells and cell strains/lines;

Whereas more than 100 laboratories at the University of Wisconsin-Madison utilize existing cell strains/lines and, in some cases, newly derived cells and cell strains/lines for their research;

Whereas researchers working with fetal tissue at UW-Madison must adhere to an institutional policy that is more rigorous and restrictive than current federal regulations;

Whereas research utilizing fetal tissues and cells/cell strains/lines including research done at UW-Madison has led to breakthrough discoveries, vaccine development and advances in other medical conditions directly benefiting nearly everyone in the state of Wisconsin, the nation and the world; and

Whereas if passed, this legislation would slow or halt the development of new therapies and cures for deadly and debilitating diseases;

Therefore be it resolved, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Faculty Senate opposes legislation that would limit the use of fetal tissues and cell strains/lines in research; and

Therefore be it further resolved, the Faculty Senate requests the legislature and governor to remove language with implications for research from the bill.