

PROPOSITION 14 STEM CELL RESEARCH INSTITUTE BOND INITIATIVE (2020)

POSITION: The Chamber's Public Policy Committee voted to SUPPORT the proposition on September 8, 2020. The Chamber's Board voted to SUPPORT the proposition on September 24, 2020.

RATIONALE: Proposition 14 continues to provide grant funding for stem cell research which businesses and universities in San Diego have benefited from in the past, and continues support for research on chronic diseases for better health outcomes.

STATUS: Proposition 14 PASSED following the November 3, 2020, election in California.

SUMMARY

Proposition 14 would approve \$5.5 billion of the state's general obligation fund toward the state's stem cell research program, California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). Voters approved Proposition 71 in 2004, establishing CIRM and allocating \$3 billion of general obligation funding. Proposition 14 is structured so that the \$5.5 billion in funding would not begin until 2026.

INDUSTRY/IES IMPACTED

This bill would affect businesses working in the life sciences and adjacent industries, as well as universities that conduct stem cell research.

SUPPORTERS

- Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute
- Biocom: Life Science Association of California
- San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
- California Democratic Party

OPPONENTS

- Center for Genetics and Society

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

- CIRM positively impacts the San Diego region, receiving over \$600 million in grant awards since the program began. The funding also tends to be matched by outside donors, resulting in even more dollars invested into local business and research institutions.
- Research from this program has advanced treatments and potential cures for chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's, and multiple sclerosis.
- Funding CIRM makes California more competitive in the life science industry, and businesses and universities only compete

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

- Since 2004, federal funding has increased for stem cell research and Congress has passed legislation to expand this research. The state does not need to allocate additional dollars, because research will continue with or without state funding.
- When Proposition 71 was passed in 2004, federal limitations existed and this is no longer the case.

for funding state-wide versus against the country for federal dollars.