



# CHARITY WATCHLIST

## Leukemia and Lymphoma Society



### ABORTION

- In [reaction to the Dobbs v. Jackson decision](#), the LLS writes:

*"The Supreme Court's decision eliminating the constitutional right to an abortion could impact blood cancer patients in profound ways. For example: Risking access to prescribed cancer treatment regimens for patients who become pregnant during treatment or who are pregnant when diagnosed with cancer will impact care and survival. Due to the toxic effects, some cancer drugs cannot be administered to pregnant people. This may leave pregnant cancer patients facing an impossible choice: Delay or forego their own cancer treatment, which may cause serious risk or fatal harm. Oncologists and cancer patients may be subject to civil or criminal liability if a pregnancy is lost due to chemotherapy or other treatment that might have caused harm. Decisions about medically necessary, evidence-based care should not be grounds for patients or doctors to face legal risk. Healthcare providers recommend embryo preservation to cancer patients who might want to have children but whose fertility could be impacted by cancer treatment. The Dobbs ruling might result in state statutes limiting access to in vitro fertilization, potentially preventing cancer survivors from building a family. There are several moving parts and uncertainty now that the question of abortion policy will primarily be determined by states. We know there will be challenges ahead and many unanswered questions. As LLS continues to examine the far-reaching ramifications of the Dobbs ruling, we share our commitment to supporting blood cancer patients and their families and preserving their ability to obtain the medical care they need. We must stand together for equal treatment and rights for the blood cancer patients we support and our employees*

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#### Mission

Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

#### Focus

cancer research, cancer prevention, patient support

### EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

- American Life League received the following email response (9/21/2023) from the LLS regarding their stance on human embryonic stem cell research: Suggests "medically assisted conception" with IVF, donor sperm and eggs, as well as surrogacy.

*The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is not currently supporting research that studies human embryonic stem (ES) cells, however **LLS recognizes that the promise of research utilizing these cells is significant.** Based on the leading scientific and bioethical advice available and, consistent with our mission, **LLS supports the use of human ES cells for research and the development of therapies** whenever the proposed research is judged meritorious by appropriately constituted scientific review committees and the board of directors of LLS. Further, human ES cell research is rigorously regulated by federal guidelines that have been updated to reflect current scientific knowledge and practice as well as stringent ethical standards. All LLS-funded research involving human subjects, human hematopoietic stem cells, human ES cells, or human induced pluripotent stem cells must follow strict scientific and ethical guidelines at the grantee's institution. LLS unequivocally opposes the use of human ES cells to clone a human being and opposes the fertilization of human eggs solely for research purposes, but **supports obtaining human ES cell lines for research from frozen fertilized eggs that would otherwise be destroyed.** Research using human ES cells is still in early stages; developments, opportunities and challenges will change over time. Consequently, LLS will regularly review stem cell research to ensure that LLS policies remain current with scientific, humanitarian, legal and ethical implications of developments in this field. As long as scientific findings suggest that ES cells have potential to cure blood cancers, our mission guides our decision to consider this avenue within appropriate guidelines.*

## IVF

- Includes the following options for '[medically assisted conception](#)' for having a family after cancer treatment:
  - use of frozen sperm
  - testicular sperm extraction
  - use of frozen eggs or embryos
  - in-vitro fertilization
  - donor sperm
  - donor eggs
  - surrogacy



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