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Amended AB 305 Would Continue to Have Devastating Impact on Potentially Life-Saving Biomedical Research

September 8, 2015

While the new version of Assembly Bill 305 backs away from the most extreme position, it would still have a devastating impact on biomedical research in Wisconsin, telling patients and their families that their hopes for cures of serious illnesses are not important to the state. The proposed bill already has sent a chilling message to biomedical scientists here at the UW and elsewhere around the state by putting their research programs in serious danger and encouraging them to move their laboratories elsewhere.

The losers will only be the people of Wisconsin, in terms of the hollowing out of our world-renowned reputation in this area of science and slowing down progress toward the discovery of new cures for a number of our most serious diseases. Instead of putting roadblocks in the way of research like this, we would think the Legislature would want to do everything it could to encourage it.

The UW-Madison faculty encourage legislators to consider just how harmful this legislation would be. It would freeze research and the prospects for future cures to diseases that affect every family in Wisconsin. Choosing to go well beyond a well-thought-out federal policy is not in the best interest of the citizens of the State of Wisconsin and represents a major deviation from the reasonable nature of our citizens and leadership in the world.

Further, the UW-Madison faculty recognize the strong feelings that many Wisconsinites have on both sides of the abortion issue. The reality is that this legislation will not resolve that debate one way or the other. What this legislation will do is turn Wisconsin into an anti-research island among the states.

PROFS, the Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate, represents the interests of the UW-Madison faculty. The elected University Committee, the executive committee of the Faculty Senate, serves as PROFS Board of Directors.