

Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights

(Santa Monica, CA)

Stem Cell Oversight and Accountability Project

Total Award: \$50,000 over 1 year

To support the Stem Cell Oversight and Accountability Project to provide the legal expertise, research and focused media advocacy necessary to protect the interests of California taxpayers and patients. California voters recently approved a state ballot initiative providing an unprecedented \$3 billion in taxpayer-funded bonds to support stem cell research. However, public access to these new medical technologies is threatened by conflicts between those responsible for awarding research grants and the biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies who stand to profit from this publicly funded research. The Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights (FTCR) will bring its consumer advocacy expertise and media voice to the debate currently dominated by those with financial stake in the policy decisions. FTCR will also organize health professionals and stem cell experts who bring scientific and medical expertise to the debate to build capacity for a statewide campaign.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$50,000 Health Program: *Objective I, Strategy I and Objective II, Strategy 2*

\$50,000 Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice Program: *Objectives I & II*