

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 30, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert Humphrey Building, Room 416 G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

We commend the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for canceling the recent \$15,900 contract with Advanced Bioscience Resources for “fresh” human fetal tissue. It was appropriate to end this contract which treated aborted babies like test subjects while promoting the sale of their body parts. We ask you to continue this important work by issuing an HHS-wide moratorium on funding research that uses aborted fetal tissue.

HHS spends millions of dollars every year on intramural and extramural research that uses fetal tissue. For instance, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) spent \$98 million on research using fetal tissue during fiscal year 2017, according to its categorical spending table.<sup>1</sup> The NIH spent an estimated \$103 million in fiscal year 2018. Much of the available fetal tissue is obtained from children violently killed by abortion, and we are deeply concerned that the bodies of these babies are being used for experimentation at taxpayer expense.

Exploiting even one unborn child in this way is repulsive and should stop, regardless of the outcome hoped for by researchers. However, not only is research with aborted fetal tissue unethical and wrong, it is ineffective. Fetal tissue has not produced a single clinical treatment, despite being used in clinical research since the 1920s.<sup>2</sup> NIH currently limits fetal tissue research to basic biology research. In 2007, NIH stopped funding research that attempted to treat various conditions by transplanting fetal tissue; this research proved ineffective and, in some cases, disastrous to patients.<sup>3</sup> HHS should lead the way in exploring ethical options for research with proven potential for offering treatments and cures.

One example of NIH funding for fetal tissue research was recently documented by CNS News. It reported that NIH has a \$13,799,501 contract with the University of California at San Francisco that requires the bone marrow, livers, and thymuses of unborn babies to create mice with humanized immune systems for testing.<sup>4</sup> The fetal tissue used to create these mice is taken from unborn babies 17-24

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<sup>1</sup> National Institutes of Health. “Estimates of Funding for Various Research, Condition, and Disease Categories (RCDC).” 18 May 2018.

<sup>2</sup> “Final Report.” Select Investigative Panel of the Energy & Commerce Committee. 30 December 2016. Pg. 386.

<sup>3</sup> David Prentice, Ph.D., “Testimony of Dr. David Prentice in Support of Arizona Bill to Prohibit Fetal Tissue Trafficking”, Charlotte Lozier Institute, March 18, 2016

<sup>4</sup> Jeffrey, Terence P. “\$13,799,501 Federal Contract Requires UC San Francisco to Obtain Aborted-Baby Parts to Humanize Mice” CNS News. 17 October 2018.

gestational weeks old.<sup>5 6</sup> By 20 weeks post-fertilization, babies have been known to survive outside the womb with proper treatment, and babies aborted at this stage are capable of feeling intense pain.<sup>7 8 9</sup> It is unconscionable for the NIH, or any federal entity, to use taxpayer funding to buy their body parts for testing.

According to CNS, funding for this project is scheduled to be provided in stages from 2013-2020, and the NIH has already provided more than \$9 million. We understand that the next renewal deadline for the contract is December 5, 2018. This contract should be canceled and replaced with ethical research.

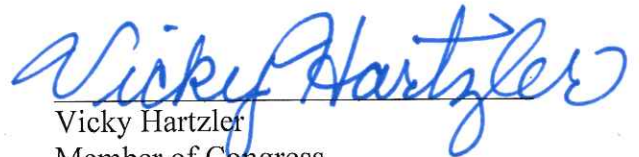
We urge HHS to end all complicity in research that uses aborted fetal tissue, beginning with this contract. We respectfully request that HHS immediately stops approving both intramural and extramural research applications that require aborted fetal tissue, and we ask the Department to create a timeline for reviewing all currently-funded research to ensure that it uses ethical research methods instead of aborted fetal tissue.

We are grateful for the Trump Administration's commitment to pro-life principles, and we certainly appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

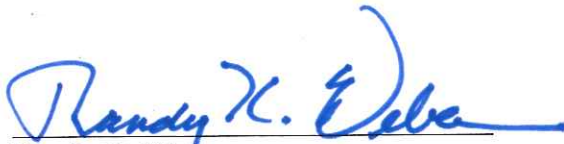
Sincerely,



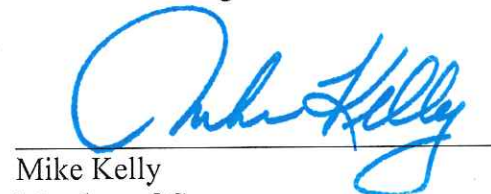
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<sup>5</sup> Lan, P., Tonomura, N., Shimizu, A., Wang, S., and Yang, Y.G. (2006). Reconstitution of a functional human immune system in immunodeficient mice through combined human fetal thymus/liver and CD34+ cell transplantation. *Blood* 108, 487-492.

<sup>6</sup> Melkus MW *et al.*, Humanized mice mount specific adaptive and innate immune responses to EBV and TSST-1, *Nature Medicine* 12, 1316-1322, 2006

<sup>7</sup> 20 weeks post-fertilization is the same as 22 weeks gestational age

<sup>8</sup> Expert Report of Kanwaljeet S. Anand, M.B.B.S., D.Phil.

<sup>9</sup> Rysavy, Matthew A. *et al.* "Between-Hospital Variation in Treatment and Outcomes in Extremely Preterm Infants." *New England Journal of Medicine*. May 7, 2015.

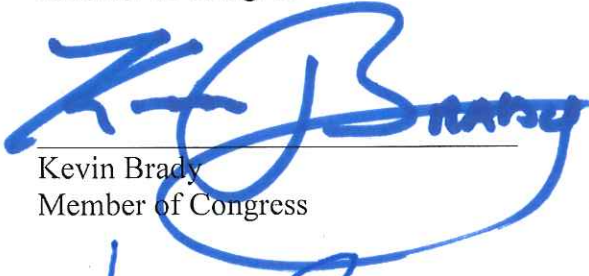




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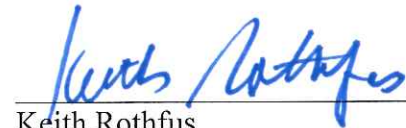
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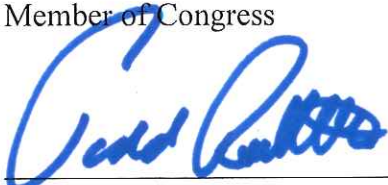
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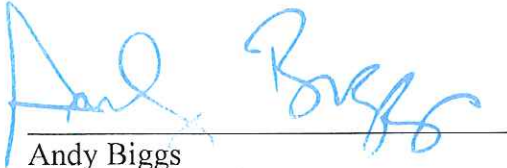
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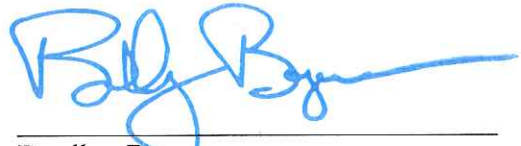
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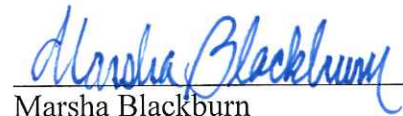
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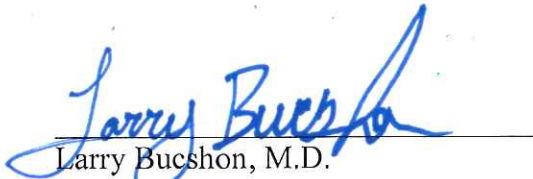
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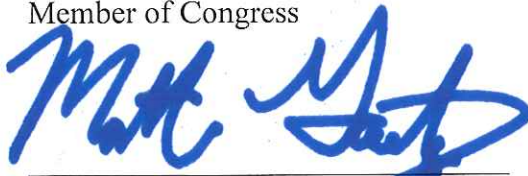
  
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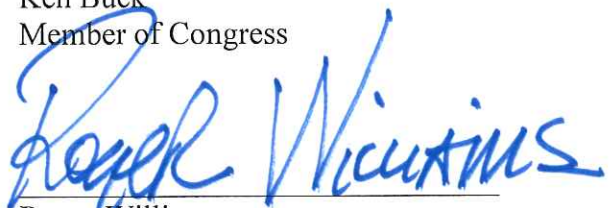
  
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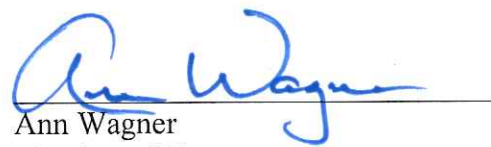
  
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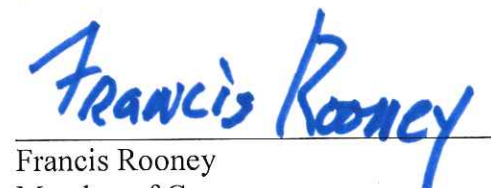
  
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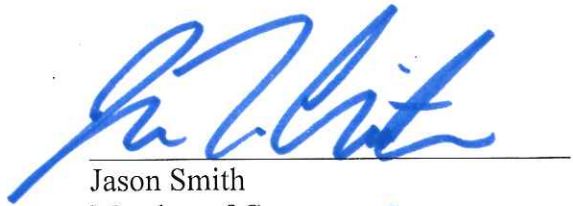
  
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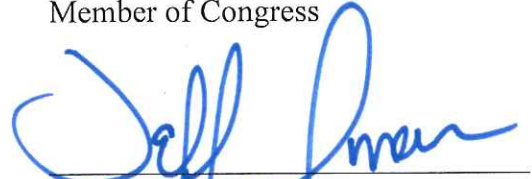
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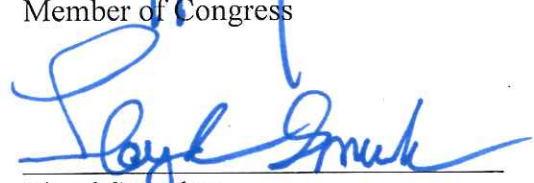
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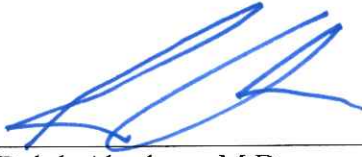
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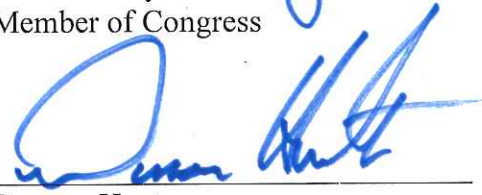
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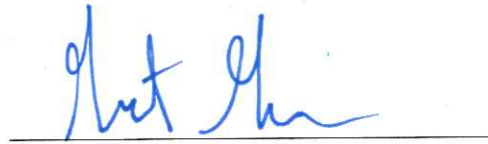
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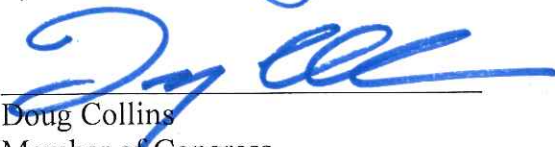
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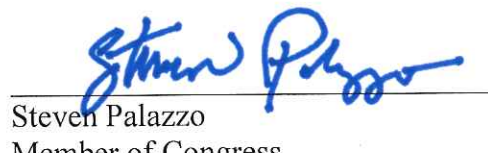
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