

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

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the *Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Act for Fiscal Year 2018*, we urge you to include language to maintain the integrity of our nation's vital medical research and provide protections for our most vulnerable population, the unborn. We appreciate the thoughtful and thorough consideration your Subcommittee has provided to pro-life provisions in the past, and respectfully request this consideration be extended to address new and challenging issues affecting the rights of the unborn.

As revealed by the Select Panel on Infant Lives investigation, Planned Parenthood officials have admittedly changed abortion procedures to procure intact fetal body parts for sale. Further, despite the organization's claims that it did not profit from the sale of fetal tissue, accounting documents provided during the investigation exposed that Planned Parenthood did in fact generate revenue from the sale of infant body parts.

The fact that an industry has been created around the sale of aborted baby parts is deeply disturbing to us, and we firmly believe we must do all that we can to ensure taxpayers' dollars are held in the highest regard when it comes to federally funded research involving fetal tissue.

Since your Subcommittee maintains jurisdiction over appropriations for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), we believe this year's appropriations process offers opportunity to directly address the inhumane practice of trafficking infant baby parts. Currently, the NIH provides a portion of its annual appropriations to fund basic biology research using human fetal tissue. According to the NIH's most recent funding report, \$80 million of taxpayer dollars was directed towards this research in FY 2015. Moreover, the NIH has projected that this funding has grown by an additional \$4 million in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

That being said, human fetal tissue only constitutes 0.2 percent of the over 76,000 NIH funded research projects. Moreover, in the over 100 years since this research began, no FDA-approved clinical trials using fetal tissue have reported positive results for patients and not a single vaccine

licensed in the United States today is manufactured using freshly isolated fetal tissue.<sup>1</sup> Recognizing the rather ineffective nature of this research, the NIH discontinued funding for fetal tissue transplantation research 13 years ago.

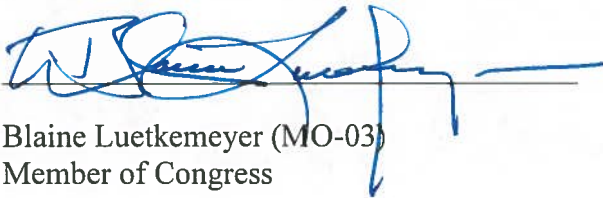
As developments and innovation continue to advance the field of medicine, new avenues for biological research have become readily available. Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells and stem cells from umbilical cord blood offer adequate and progressive alternatives for the research conducted by the NIH. Alternatives have proven fruitful for vaccine lines and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined fetal tissue is no longer necessary for the production of a variety of vaccines once dependent on the cell line.<sup>2</sup>

With these facts in mind, we respectfully request that any FY 2018 funding afforded to HHS be conditioned on the requirement that no funds be made available for research on fetal tissue obtained from an induced abortion. This protection will ensure that federally funded research does not enable the abortion industry to profit from the harvesting and trafficking of innocent, human lives.

The research conducted by the NIH affords invaluable knowledge and understanding of the infectious diseases we face today. Indisputably, NIH funding is vital to improving health-care and protecting American lives. That being said, we must ensure that we hold taxpayers' dollars with highest regard and direct our limited resources to projects that not only better our country, but reflect the will of the people. The trafficking of aborted baby parts certainly does not accomplish either goal.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued support for life.

Respectfully,



Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-03)  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)  
Member of Congress



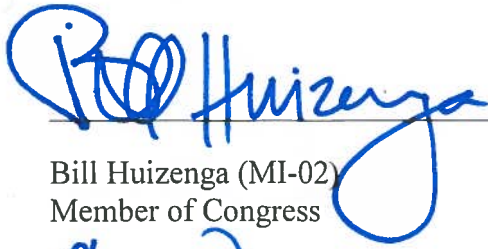
Rick Crawford (AR-01)  
Member of Congress

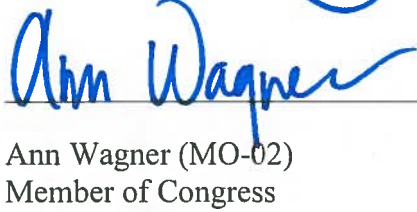


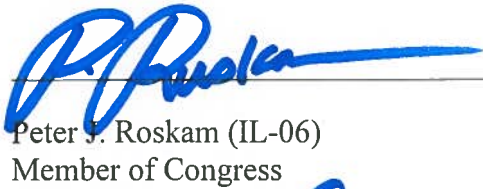
Christopher H. Smith (NJ-04)  
Member of Congress

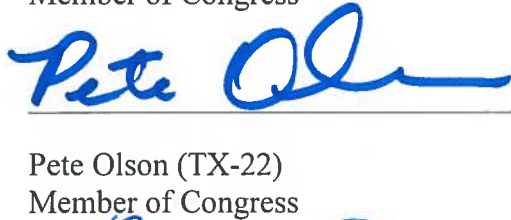
<sup>1</sup> The Select Investigative Panel Final Report, U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee, 114th Cong. (2016), [https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/republicans.energycommerce.house.gov/files/114/Analysis/20161230Select\\_Panel\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/republicans.energycommerce.house.gov/files/114/Analysis/20161230Select_Panel_Final_Report.pdf).

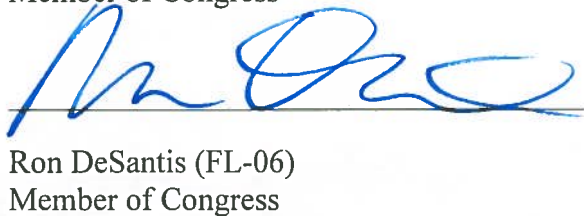
<sup>2</sup> David A. Prentice. Written testimony: Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. August 11, 2015. Available at <https://lozierinstitute.org/written-testimony-of-david-a-prentice-ph-d-in-support-of-wisconsinbill-to-prohibit-sales-and-use-of-fetal-body-parts-from-abortion/>.

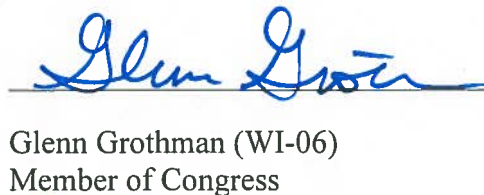
  
Bill Huizenga (MI-02)  
Member of Congress

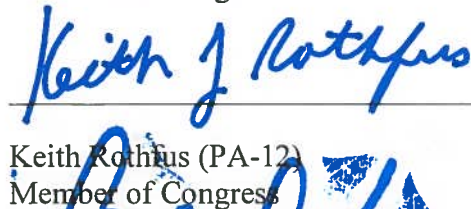
  
Ann Wagner (MO-02)  
Member of Congress

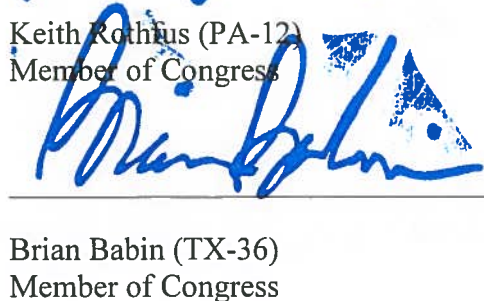
  
Peter J. Roskam (IL-06)  
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Pete Olson (TX-22)  
Member of Congress

  
Ron DeSantis (FL-06)  
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Glenn Grothman (WI-06)  
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Keith Rothfus (PA-12)  
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Brian Babin (TX-36)  
Member of Congress



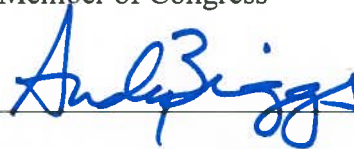
Diane Black (TN-06)  
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Jackie Walorski (IN-02)  
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Walter B. Jones (NC-03)  
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Andy Biggs (AZ-05)  
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows (NC-11)  
Member of Congress



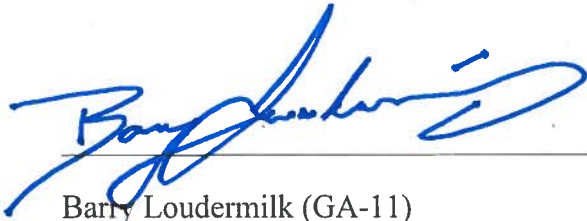
Randy Weber (TX-14)  
Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger (NC-09)  
Member of Congress



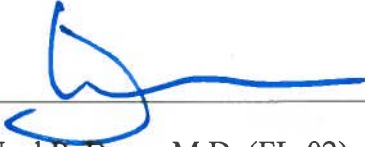
John Ratcliffe (TX-04)  
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk (GA-11)  
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Ralph Abraham, M.D. (LA-05)  
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D. (FL-02)  
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte (VA-06)  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn (CO-05)  
Member of Congress