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ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

Minority (202) 225-3641

March 23, 2016

Ms. R. Alta Charo
Warren P. Knowles Professor of Law and Bioethics
University of Wisconsin
975 Bascom Mall
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Ms. Charo:

Thank you for appearing before the Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, to testify at the hearing entitled "Bioethics and Fetal Tissue."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Wednesday, April 6, 2016. Your responses should be mailed to Rachel Collins, Investigative Counsel and Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to Rachel.Collins@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
Chairman
Select Investigative Panel of
the Committee on Energy and Commerce

cc: The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky, Ranking Member, Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce

Attachment

Attachment — Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn

1. In response to a question (referencing exhibits A-3 and C1-2) about whether a woman considering donating fetal tissue should know “specifically what it’s going for and what the specific tissues to be used are going to be?” you replied “I’m not sure”.

Is it not true that providing such information would allow a woman to make a more informed choice before choosing to donate fetal tissue?

Also, identify any ethical concerns you have in regards to exhibit A-3, with particular focus on the following statement: “Research using the blood from pregnant women and tissue that has been aborted has been used to treat and find a cure for such diseases as diabetes, Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s disease, cancer, and AIDS”. Do you agree with Dr. Goldstein that this is a deceptive representation?

2. When asked whether any business or clinic should sell fetal tissue for a profit, you stated, “It is against the law.” Do you think it is unethical for a business or clinic to sell fetal tissue for a profit?
3. In response to a question about cosmetics and the use of fetal tissue, you testified, “I find the cosmetic uses (not skin grafts) in Hollywood sometimes to be so frivolous that I’d be perfectly happy to see us abandon them.” Please elaborate as to which uses of fetal tissue for cosmetic purposes (lotions, aging cream, etc.) you believe to be frivolous. Is fetal tissue used for other purposes that you believe does not represent a compelling public interest? If so, please identify these uses.