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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

Dr. G. Kevin Donovan
Director, Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics
Georgetown University Medical Center
4000 Reservoir Road, N.W.; Suite 120
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Dr. Donovan:

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. At the hearing, the claim was made that without fetal tissue, Zika virus research could not go forward. Only days later, the *Washington Post*¹ cited a *Cell Stem Cell* research project in which induced pluripotent stem cells were engineered to study the characteristics of the virus's infectious potential in developing neural tissue. Since the breakthrough study produced vital information, why the insistence that fetal tissue is required to develop a vaccine or to study the infection's progress?
2. You testified that "it does exist and it is more ethical" in response to a question about the existence of alternative sources of tissue to form fetal cell lines, "such as spontaneous miscarriages."

Please expand your testimony to include other alternative sources of tissue that you are aware of which may be used to form fetal cell lines and that you believe to be ethical.

3. Why is it necessary to have different ethical guidelines governing consent to donate fetal tissue for minors as opposed to adults? Further, how might a minor be unduly influenced to donate fetal tissue if presented with a consent form such as Exhibit A-3?

¹ See https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/evidence-of-zikas-risk-to-pregnant-women-continues-to-grow/2016/03/05/6c8e6152-e2aa-11e5-8c00-8aa03741dced_story.html.