

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. Kathleen Schmainda
Professor, Radiology and Biophysics
Vice-chair, Research
Medical College of Wisconsin
8701 Watertown Plank Road
Milwaukee, WI 53226

Dear Dr. Schmainda:

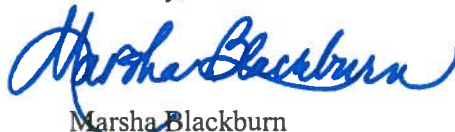
Thank you for appearing before the Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, to testify at the hearing entitled "Bioethics and Fetal Tissue."

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. At the hearing, you made an important statement regarding the Polio vaccine. Can you explain for the Panel what tissues were actually used for the Polio vaccine?
3. At the hearing, you made a statement about how many fetuses it would take to provide a therapeutic intervention for the European Parkinson's experiments. Can you provide the source for this information? Also, can you elaborate on the ethical implications for any therapy that depends on a significant volume of fetal tissue?

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.