

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

May 11, 2016

Mr. Kenneth Sukhia
Sukhia Law Group
902 N. Gadsden Street
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Dear Mr. Sukhia:

Thank you for appearing before the Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, to testify at the hearing entitled "The Pricing of 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, May 25, 2016. Your responses should be mailed to Rachel Collins, Investigative Counsel and Clerk, Select Investigative Panel of the 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 Panel.

Sincerely,



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

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

Attachment

Attachment — Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky

During the April 20, 2016 Select Investigative Panel hearing, you were asked by several Republican Members to speculate about possible violation of 42 U.S.C. § 289g–2 based on “exhibits” created by the Majority staff. Those documents were provided to hearing witnesses and the press prior to the hearing. However, Republicans refused to provide the documents to the “procurement business” that were the alleged source of some of their materials and staff-created work product. Democratic Members repeatedly objected to the legitimacy of the materials and their use at the hearing.

The hearing only contained minimal discussion regarding the value of and the witnesses’ viewpoints on the use of fetal tissue for research purposes.

1. Assume that you conducted an investigation and concluded to your satisfaction that no one is profiting from fetal tissue that is made available as a consequence of a legal abortion and that all laws have been followed with regard to donation of that tissue for research purposes. Would you support use of that tissue for research purposes?

I do not have an opinion on the scientific utility of using fetal tissue for research purposes because the efficacy of such research is beyond my legal expertise. I do not believe fetal research has ever led to the cure of any diseases. I do know it is against the law to make a profit from the distribution of such tissue and that there is sufficient evidence to justify an investigation in this case.

2. If you answered no to the first question – or otherwise qualified your response in any manner – are there any circumstances for which you would allow fetal tissue research? (See above).
3. Prominent researchers have highlighted the need for fetal tissue to study and address the impact of the Zika virus on fetal brain development. For example, a leading researcher at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center recently confirmed that “It is absolutely essential to study Zika infection in human fetal tissue.”¹ Assuming, once again, that all laws related to fetal tissue donation have been followed, would you support the use of fetal tissue as part of research efforts to analyze and understand the Zika virus? To possibly help identify a cure? (See above).

¹ Erika Check Hayden, *Zika highlights role of controversial fetal-tissue research*, NATURE (Mar. 30, 2016).