

September 10, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
S-230, US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate
S-221, US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker, U.S. House of
Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader, U.S. House of
Representatives
H-204, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and
Democratic Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the millions of patients throughout the nation and around the world, as well

donated fetal tissue has been critical for understanding how Zika virus crosses the placenta and impacts human brain development. The insights gained through studies of Zika virus in human fetal tissue are already guiding the development of therapies to prevent transmission of the virus. These examples illustrate how legislation that limits human fetal tissue research would hinder the development of critical new treatments and potentially cost lives.

Fetal tissue was also essential for the development of a therapy to prevent the transmission of HIV (Truvada). There are clinical trials underway using cells from fetal tissue as treatments for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), spinal cord injury, and

Human fetal tissue research is thus critical to addressing important questions in biomedical research, and for the development of new therapies. Legal and ethical frameworks that are already in place ensure appropriate oversight, and that human fetal tissue is obtained legally and with donor consent. We urge you to oppose restrictions to this research and to support the families who are relying on biomedical research to develop new treatments for diseases that affect millions of people around the world.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
Alliance for Aging Research
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Immunologists
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Pediatric Society
American Society for Cell Biology
American Society for Investigative Pathology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Hematology
Americans for Cures
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Boston University School of Medicine
Brown University
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Council on Governmental Relations
Endocrine Society
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Harvard University
Indiana University
International Society for Cell & Gene Therapy
International Society for Stem Cell Research
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts General Hospital
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
New York University

Pediatric Policy Council
Research!America
Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences
Society for Pediatric Research
Stanford University
Stony Brook Medicine
Texans for Cures
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures
The New York Stem Cell Foundation
The State University of New York System
The State University of New York Upstate Medical University
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
University at Buffalo
University of California System
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Washington State University
Weill Cornell Medicine
Yale University