

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We thank you for your bold and consistent efforts to defend the sanctity of all human life, including our youngest and most vulnerable. Your Administration's decisive actions to protect human life and human dignity on every front have brought great hope to our nation. In particular, we thank you for last year's decision to stop taxpayer funding in federal laboratories of the horrific practice of using aborted baby body parts for experiments.

As you know, there are critics who have complained against your decision to ban funding of aborted fetal tissue research. Some of these same critics are now attempting to exploit the current COVID-19 crisis, claiming that the ban on aborted fetal tissue is limiting research for cures to the virus. These claims are not true. The facts show that aborted fetal tissue from ongoing abortions has never been used in the production of a single vaccine, and most vaccines today use more efficient, modern cell lines and production techniques. Notably, the few attempted transplants of aborted fetal tissue have made most patients worse, not better. Moreover, it is unknown whether mice with a human immune system and lungs made from aborted fetal tissue can even be used successfully to test treatments against the coronavirus. Such unethical practices are unnecessary, especially given that a number of proven, ethically produced mouse experimental models already exist. Indeed, many experts agree that this antiquated practice of using aborted baby organs and tissue in experiments has been surpassed by modern, ethical technologies.¹

These attempts to exploit the current crisis faced by our nation undermine your leadership and the promising research that is already underway. In reality, holding the line ethically gives us the ability to put resources toward better science that is already showing promise against the coronavirus.

Therefore, we urge you to stand strong in rejecting these appeals for taxpayer dollars to be used for the practice of using aborted babies in experiments. Your decision to stop funding for this research and to redirect funds toward ethical, successful alternatives should be maintained.

¹ For details, see the Congressional scientific testimonies of Dr. Tara Sander Lee, Ph.D. and Dr. David A. Prentice, Ph.D., "In Support of Ethical Alternatives to Aborted Fetal Tissue Research," available at <https://lozierinstitute.org/written-testimony-of-tara-sander-lee-ph-d-in-support-of-ethical-alternatives-to-aborted-fetal-tissue-research/> and <https://lozierinstitute.org/written-testimony-of-david-a-prentice-ph-d-in-support-of-ethical-alternatives-to-aborted-fetal-tissue-research/> and "Exploiting a Crisis: Unethical Experiments Undermine Real Help for Coronavirus Patients," *Townhall*, March 26, 2020; <https://townhall.com/columnists/davidaprentice/2020/03/26/exploiting-a-crisis-unethical-experiments-undermine-real-help-for-coronavirus-patients-n2565761>

CC: HHS Secretary Alex Azar
NIH Director Francis S. Collins

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



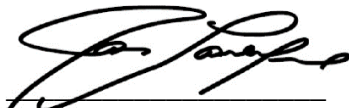
Mitch McConnell
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



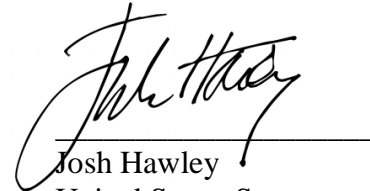
Kelly Loeffler
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Mike Lee
United States Senator



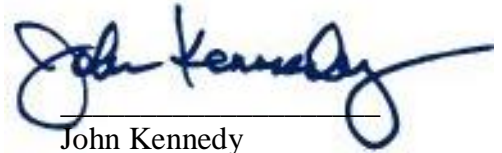
Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Rob Portman
United States Senator



John Kennedy
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



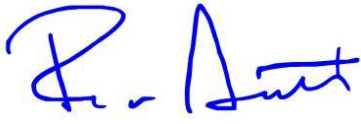
John Hoeven
United States Senator



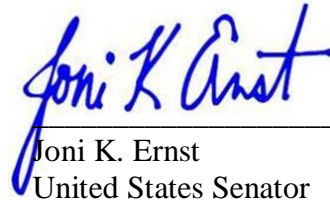
Lindsey Graham
United States Senator



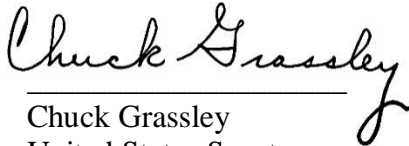
Pat Roberts
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Chuck Grassley
United States Senator



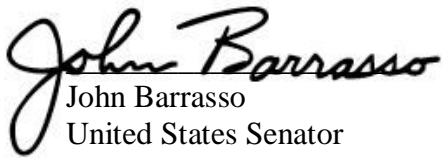
Ben Sasse
United States Senator

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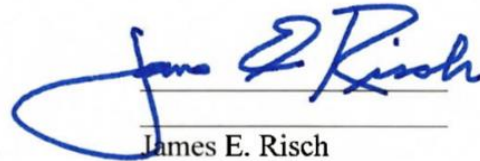
Tim Scott
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



John Barrasso
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator