

July 14, 2017

Secretary Thomas E. Price, M.D.
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Price,

We applaud President Donald Trump's actions in defense of human life, especially his restoration and expansion of the Mexico City Policy, his signing of legislation to allow states to remove Title X funding from abortion providers, his promises to protect religious freedom and conscience rights, and his numerous appointments of strong leaders that are pro-life and pro-science, including yourself. We urge you to continue this Administration's defense of human dignity and promotion of sound science by reversing policies left over from former President Barack Obama's Administration at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that endanger embryos and unborn children.

While we respect the Christian faith and scientific achievements of NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, we are deeply concerned by his views on human life at the earliest stages. In particular, he has supported taxpayer funding for human embryo destructive research and aborted fetal tissue research. He has also supported human cloning, and proposed guidelines to fund human-animal chimera research.

In fact, since President Trump took office, Dr. Collins has approved 10 more embryonic stem cell lines, created by the destruction of young human embryos. This continues the Obama policy of providing taxpayer-funded incentives for the creation and destruction of human life. In FY17 alone, NIH funneled over \$300 million to unethical and ineffective research involving human embryonic stem cells and human fetal tissue. Despite Dr. Collins' personal views and past actions, it is critical that these Obama-era NIH policies be updated to be consistent with your and President Trump's strong commitments to respect human dignity and to intensify results-driven, patient-centered research.

We urge you to direct the NIH to take the following actions:

- Redirect scarce resources to prioritize research using cells obtained without destroying human life, and which show the greatest potential for near-term clinical benefit in human patients, such as adult stem cells, cord blood, induced pluripotent stem cells, and other cell technologies not involving the destruction or manufacture of human embryos;
- Prohibit NIH from conducting or financially supporting any research involving the destruction, discarding of, or risk of injury to, a human embryo, or the utilization of human embryonic stem cells;
- Prohibit NIH from conducting or financially supporting any basic research involving human fetal tissue that is obtained pursuant to an induced abortion;
- Create a registry of ethically obtained fetal tissue, derived from miscarriages, stillbirth and ectopic pregnancies, to support basic research; and

- Withdraw the proposed changes to NIH guidelines which would allow funding for research which attempts to create human-animal chimeras, including chimeras that may develop substantially human cell-derived brains or the ability to produce human sperm or egg cells, which can affect heredity.

Besides being unethical, research involving human embryonic stem cells or aborted fetal tissue simply yields poor results for clinical medical treatments. Moreover, human embryonic stem cells and human fetal tissue are not absolutely required for current research. Instead, NIH should redirect its limited taxpayer funds to prioritize research using other cells, such as adult and induced pluripotent stem cells, which are not only ethically obtained, but also have shown far more promise in clinical settings.

Human embryos and fetuses, as living members of the human species, are not raw materials to be exploited or commodities to be bought and sold. NIH funding of research involving aborted fetal tissue incentivizes the abortion industry's practice of harvesting and selling the organs of unborn children, as exposed by the Center for Medical Progress' undercover videos and the investigative work of the House Select Panel on Infant Lives and the Senate Judiciary Committee.

NIH must also close the door to human-animal chimera research that mixes human and animal brains and can affect human or animal heredity, both of which threaten to redefine what it means to be human.

We look forward to working with you and Dr. Collins to restore respect for human life and dignity at NIH, and to prioritize promising ethical research with the greatest potential for near-term clinical benefit in human patients.

Sincerely,

Tony Perkins
President
Family Research Council

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List

David Stevens, MD, MA (Ethics)
CEO
Christian Medical Association

Penny Young Nance
CEO and President
Concerned Women for America

Carol Tobias
President
National Right to Life

Tom McClusky
President
March for Life Action

Paul Weber
President & CEO
Family Policy Alliance

Catherine Glenn Foster
President & CEO
Americans United for Life

Austin Ruse
President
C-fam

Terry Schilling
Executive Director
American Principles Project

Roland C. Warren
President and CEO
Care Net

Jonathan Imbody
Director
Freedom2Care

C. Preston Noell III
President
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc

Jerry Cox
President
Arkansas Family Council

Jim Minnery
President
Alaska Family Action

Eric Teetsel
President & Executive Director
Family Policy Alliance of Kansas

Jonathan Keller
President
California Family Council

Mark Jorritsma
President & Executive Director
Family Policy Alliance of North Dakota

Michael Geer
President
Pennsylvania Family Institute

Kent Ostrander
Executive Director
The Family Foundation (KY)

Jason J. McGuire
Executive Director
New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms

Cole Muzio
President and Executive Director
Family Policy Alliance of Georgia

Julaine K. Appling
President
Wisconsin Family Action

Joe Ortwerth
Executive Director
Missouri Family Policy Council

Nicole Theis
President
Delaware Family Policy Council

Curt Smith
President
Indiana Family Institute

Bob Vander Plaats
President and CEO
The Family Leader

Karen Bowling
Executive Director
Nebraska Family Alliance

Carroll Conley
Executive Director
Christian Civic League Maine

Len Deo
Founder & President
New Jersey Family Policy Council

Allen Whitt
President
Family Policy Council & Family Policy
Institute (WV)

Shannon McGinley
Executive Director
Cornerstone Action (NH)

Gene Mills
President
Louisiana Family Forum

Eva Andrade
President
Hawaii Family Forum

Cathi Herrod
President
Center for Arizona Policy

Ed Randazzo
Director of Political Operations
Family Heritage Alliance Action

Julie Lynde
Executive Director
Cornerstone Family Council (Idaho)

Jeff Laszloffy
President
Montana Family Foundation

Joseph Backholm
President
Family Policy Institute of Washington

David E. Smith
Executive Director
Illinois Family Institute

John Helmberger
CEO
Minnesota Family Council

Aaron Baer
President
Citizens for Community Values

Andrew Beckwith
President
Massachusetts Family Institute

Thomas J. Shaheen
Vice President for Policy
Pennsylvania Family Council