Children of God for Life
World leaders in the Campaign for Ethical Vaccines, medicines and consumer products

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November 17, 2014

COPY TO:

Ms Rachael Conklin
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Sylvia Burwell, Secretary
Dept of HHS
200 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms Conklin,

I am in receipt of your letter dated November 12th responding to my previous request that the FDA pursue fast tracking of Ebola vaccines that are produced using moral cell lines. Your letter does not address these concerns for the following reasons:

1) You referenced that some vaccines licensed by the FDA use aborted fetal cell lines MRC-5 and WI-38. However, the Ebola vaccines in question by GSK/NIAID, NewLink Genetics and Johnson & Johnson/Crucell, are using HEK-293 and PER C6 aborted fetal cell lines.

2) You further state that these cell lines have a proven track record of safety when in fact, HEK-293 and PER C6 are currently not used in any vaccines licensed in the US.

3) The moral cell lines being used by Tekmira and the University of Texas are Vero cells - which do have a proven track record of safety as they are used in polio and rabies vaccines in the US.

4) There are 47 FDA licensed vaccines in the US, 8 of which are produced using aborted fetal cell lines. Of those 8 only 3 do not have a moral option anywhere in the world: chickenpox, shingles and ProQuad (MMR + chickenpox). To say that "an inability to use these cells [aborted fetal] would deprive the US of important vaccines" is simply, not true.

Again, I am asking that you consider the moral sensibilities of millions of people and do not deprive them of the ability to protect themselves from Ebola disease by focusing your efforts on vaccines utilizing aborted fetal cells. It is not only unnecessary, it is immoral to possibly expose citizens to contamination and death, especially when moral alternatives can and should be used instead. I look forward to a reasonable response and solution to this issue.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Vinnedge

cc: Margaret Hamburg, FDA Commissioner