



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON, DC 20201



DEC - 4 2015

The Honorable Rand Paul  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Paul:

I am writing in response to your letter of October 6, 2015, in which you and 34 other Senators requested that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conduct an audit of "all fetal tissue research support by HHS, specifically examining the Department's oversight of contractor and grantee compliance with the laws governing fetal tissue research."

Prior to receiving this letter, staff from your office met with HHS OIG staff in July, to discuss generally OIG's jurisdiction related to Planned Parenthood and earlier OIG work related to Family Planning Services and Medicaid funds. Following receipt of your letter, HHS OIG staff met again with your staff to discuss proposed work that would be responsive and timely.

As discussed in that meeting, we will interview HHS and National Institutes of Health (NIH) officials, as the majority of HHS funding for human fetal tissue research is awarded through NIH. This approach will also focus on gathering relevant documentation related to policies and procedures for monitoring fetal tissue research activities. Our goal is to obtain information related to fetal tissue research grants, NIH's monitoring procedures over third-party certifications and those related to the Department's internal fetal tissue research, and any known violations of Federal requirements.

We will provide periodic updates to your staff as our work progresses. Should you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Christopher Seagle, Director of External Affairs, at 202-260-7006 or, [Christopher.Seagle@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:Christopher.Seagle@oig.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel R. Levinson".

Daniel R. Levinson  
Inspector General