



June 6, 2019

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Secretary
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 729H
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C., 20201

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, Equity Forward requests access to and copies of the following records:

Copies of all documents related to HHS' audit of the research involving fetal tissue, including the audit itself, as referenced in the agency's June 5, 2019 press [statement](#).

Fee Waiver Request

Equity Forward requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. The disclosure of the information sought under this request will document and reveal the operations of the government, including how public funds are spent and how officials conduct the public's business.

HHS cited the audit in its [June 5, 2019 statement](#) announcing the termination of a contract between the FDA and Advanced Bioscience Resources for fetal tissue research. This announcement has elicited a rush of media coverage in, but not limited to, [The New York Times](#), [CNN](#), [NPR](#), [The Los Angeles Times](#), and [The Washington Post](#).

This request is for non-commercial purposes. As a project of a 501(c)(3) organization, Equity Forward does not have a commercial purpose, and the release of the information requested is not in Equity Forward's financial interest. Equity Forward will use the information gathered through this request to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. Accordingly, Equity Forward qualifies for a fee waiver.

Conclusion

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the law. Additionally, if any documents are withheld based on the Department's interpretation of any exemption, I request that you provide an index of all denied documents. Please also inform me if costs associated with this request will exceed \$200.

If possible, I would prefer to receive this information electronically via e-mail at macarter@equityfwd.org. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to call me at (678) 827-1731.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Alice Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Carter" being more prominent than the middle name "Alice".

Mary Alice Carter
Senior Advisor, Equity Forward