

Siri | Glimstad

200 Park Avenue, Seventeenth Floor, New York, NY 10166
sirillp.com | P: (212) 532-1091 | F: (646) 417-5967

May 4, 2021

VIA EMAIL AND FEDEX

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Elizabeth Hertel, Director
333 S. Grand Ave.
P.O. Box 303195
Lansing, MI 48909
c/o Teri Sims SimsT2@michigan.gov

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Joneigh Khaldun, Chief Deputy for Health
333 S. Grand Ave.
Lansing, MI 48913
khaldunj@michigan.gov

Re: *Law requiring disclosure to COVID-19 vaccine recipients*

Dear Ms. Hertel and Dr. Khaldun:

On behalf of the Informed Consent Action Network, we write regarding a newly enacted Michigan law which requires that: “A recipient of a COVID-19 vaccine administered from the funds appropriated in part 1 for federal COVID immunization and vaccine grant reserve fund shall be provided with information or informed if and in what manner the development of the vaccine utilized aborted fetal tissue or human embryonic stem cell derivation lines.” <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2021-2022/publicact/pdf/2021-PA-0002.pdf>.

Please provide a copy of the document(s) by which COVID-19 vaccine recipients are being provided this statutorily required information.

As you are likely aware, the development of each of the three current COVID-19 vaccines in use pursuant to emergency use authorization involved aborted fetal tissue or human embryonic stem cell derivation lines:

- **Johnson & Johnson/Janssen:** Fetal cell cultures are used to produce and manufacture the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine and biological material from these fetal cell cultures remain in the final formulation of this vaccine. *See, e.g.,* <https://www.fda.gov/media/146303/download> (“Each...dose of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine...may also contain residual amounts of host cell proteins (≤ 0.15 mcg) and/or host cell DNA (≤ 3 ng).”) <https://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download> (same).

- **Pfizer/BioNTech:** The HEK-293 abortion-related cell line was used in research related to the development of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. *See, e.g.,* <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.08.280818v1.full.pdf>.
- **Moderna/NIAID:** Aborted fetal cell lines were used in both the development and testing of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine. *See, e.g.,* <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2622-0.pdf>.

Our client looks forward to your prompt response.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ASiri', is positioned above the typed name.

Aaron Siri, Esq.

Elizabeth A. Brehm, Esq.