



UNIVERSITY OF  
**FLORIDA**

College of Medicine  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology - Pensacola

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December 16, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5360 Fishers Lane Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

**RE: Docket Number 96N-484S, Suitability Determination for Donors of  
Human Sperm and Tissue Based Products**

To Whom it May Concern,

The proposed legislation to subject human eggs, egg donors and resulting embryos to quarantine for six months is an unnecessary burden for recipient couples and is scientifically unbased. There is no evidence that gametes or embryos used in assisted reproductive technologies transmit the infectious diseases for which we routinely screen with current technology. The cryopreservation required significantly reduces implantation and pregnancy rates and will increase the cost per conception. This would constitute an unnecessary wastage of human embryos if current practice were restricted in this fashion.

From a clinical point of view this approach is seen as trivial interference by the FDA in the practice of medicine and the application of out-dated and unrelated suspicions to the practice of assisted reproduction.

This letter is to be interpreted as a strong opinion from this clinician. I am sure you will receive many similar comments from others.

Respectfully,

Barry A. Ripps, M.D.  
Board Certified Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

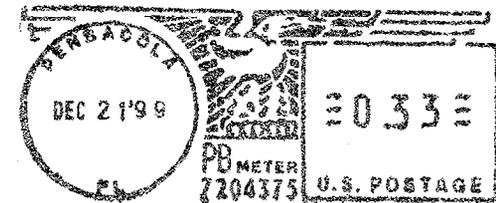
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