DOCKET number (99D0557) 7-7-99

Food and Drug Administration

I want you to know that I am against any xenotransplant research. Responsible health authorities would ban all xenotransplants outright, regardless of the species, particularly because of the threats of inter-species virus transmission. Pigs are being considered as the source animal of choice for xenotransplant. But there is no evidence that pigs are any safer than nonhuman primates. Pig viruses are just as dangerous as nonhuman primate viruses. The U.S. should follow Europe's lead. In January 1999, the Council of Europe, representing 40 European countries, recommended a world-wide ban on xenotransplants. There are safer and more humane alternatives to xenotransplantation, such as aggressively promoting preventive medicine and increasing human organ donation rates

Sincerely

Ms. Margaret Waters

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