Dear Commissioner Hahn,

As our nation works to defend itself from the deadly Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), we write to express our gratitude to you and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for all of its efforts to combat the virus and to ask for your help to ensure that Americans will have access to vaccines that are free from any connection to abortion.

To be clear, we strongly support efforts to develop an effective, safe, and widely available vaccine as quickly as possible. However, we also strongly urge our federal government to ensure that fundamental moral principles are followed in the development of such vaccines, most importantly, the principle that human life is sacred and should never be exploited.

We are aware that, among the dozens of vaccines currently in development, some are being produced using old cell lines that were created from the cells of aborted babies. For example, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has a substantial contract from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and is working on a vaccine that is being produced using one of these ethically problematic cell lines. Thankfully, other vaccines such as those being developed by Sanofi Pasteur, Inovio, and the John Paul II Medical Research Institute utilize cell lines not connected to unethical procedures and methods.

It is critically important that Americans have access to a vaccine that is produced ethically: no American should be forced to choose between being vaccinated against this potentially deadly virus and violating his or her conscience. Fortunately, there is no need to use ethically problematic cell lines to produce a COVID vaccine, or any vaccine, as other cell lines or processes that do not involve cells from abortions are available and are regularly being used to produce other vaccines.

Commissioner Hahn, we urgently and respectfully implore you to not only ensure that Americans will have access to a COVID vaccine that is free of ethical concerns, but to encourage and incentivize pharmaceutical companies to use only ethical cell lines or processes for producing vaccines.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop of Kansas City, KS
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Doctrine
Most Reverend John F. Doerfler
Bishop of Marquette
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on Healthcare Issues

Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development

Joseph Meaney, Ph.D.
President
National Catholic Bioethics Center

Michael Parker, MD
President
Catholic Medical Association

Jeffrey Barrows, DO, MA,
Senior VP Bioethics and Public Policy
Christian Medical & Dental Associations

Donna J. Harrison MD
Executive Director
American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Michelle Cretella, MD
Executive Director
American College of Pediatricians

Marianne Linane, RN, MA,
Director
National Association of Pro-Life Nurses

Ellen Gianoli, BSN, PHN, MA, RN
President
National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A.

Alan Moy MD
Founder and Scientific Director
John Paul II Medical Research Institute
CEO of Cellular Engineering Technologies

Russell Moore
President
Southern Baptist Ethics &
Religious Liberty Commission
Debi Vinnedge  
President and Executive Director  
Children of God for Life

Jeanne Mancini  
President  
March for Life Education & Defense Fund

Tom Brejcha  
President and Chief Counsel  
Thomas More Society

Travis S. Weber, J.D., LL.M.  
Vice President for Policy and Government Affairs  
Family Research Council

Penny Young Nance  
CEO and President  
Concerned Women for America LAC

Michael P. Farris  
President, CEO and General Counsel  
Alliance Defending Freedom

Michael Vacca, J.D.  
Christ Medicus Foundation

Bradley L. Hahn, J.D.  
CEO  
Solidarity HealthShare

Jonathan Imbody  
Director  
Freedom2Care

Kristan Hawkins  
President  
Students for Life of America

Lila Rose  
President & Founder  
Live Action

CC:  President Donald J. Trump  
Vice President Mike Pence  
Alex M. Azar II, Secretary of Health and Human Services