



Case No. 2017-00983-FOIA-OS

September 19, 2017

Janet Benshoof
Global Justice Center
11 Hanover Square, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10005

Dear Ms. Benshoof:

This is an amended interim response to your July 20, 2017, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. You requested the following: “information on all HHS emails, internal memos, contracts, grants and awards since November 8, 2016 that discuss or mention the Helms amendment, Global Gag Rule, the “Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance” policy, or other US abortion restrictions on foreign assistance.”

On August 7, 2017, this office initially denied your request for expedited processing. Following your August 14, 2017, appeal of this determination, we conducted another review of your expedited request. As a result of our additional review of your request for expedited processing, as documented in this letter and on behalf of the Department as a whole, I have determined that your request for expedited processing meets the requirements under the FOIA and is granted. The FOIA requires that an agency expedite processing of a request only when the requester demonstrates a “compelling need.” The subject matter of your request demonstrates that there is an “urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal activity.”

The Department of Health and Human Services regulations state that fees may be waived if the disclosure of the information meets both of the following tests: (1) It is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the government, and (2) it is not in the commercial interest of the requester. It was determined that your request will be processed under the “General Public” category, your request may be subject to duplication fees at 10 cents per page after the first 100 pages of duplication. Your request for a fee waiver will be addressed, once our office ascertains that the billable costs will exceed our \$25.00 billing threshold.

Sincerely yours,

For

Michael S. Marquis
Director
FOI/Privacy Acts Division