



May 12, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
United States House of Representatives
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
United States House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Buddy Carter
United States House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
United States House of Representatives
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

CC: The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary, United States Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Chairman Collins, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Carter and Ranking Member DeGette:

In recognition of National Women's Health Week, Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America and the undersigned 26 organizations join together to urge the restoration of women's health research funding. In recent years, the United States has made significant advances towards improving health outcomes for women across the country. However, the decision to terminate funding for research projects dedicated to understanding and addressing the unique health challenges faced by women threatens to send medical advancements backwards. We urge you to protect innovative advances that define and shape the future of women's health and restore funding for women's health research.

Historically, women's health has been underdiagnosed, underfunded and under researched, leaving significant gaps in women's health care. Only in 1993, with the enactment of the NIH Revitalization Act (Pub. L. 103-43) did Congress finally require the inclusion of women in clinical research. In 2016, with the enactment of the 21st Century Cures Act (Pub. L. 114-255), Congress approved important measures to promote inclusion and analysis of female animals, tissues and cells in NIH-funded research. Yet decades later, despite representing 51% of the US population, women only make up 40% of participants in clinical trials for cancer,

cardiovascular disease and psychiatric conditions, three conditions that impact women the most.¹

Researchers have noted that these disparities in research may be contributing to disparities in women's health care. For example, the failure to study medications and other interventions in a broad sampling of women has contributed to women experiencing adverse effects from medications [at twice the rate of men](#).²

Investing in women's health care and research has the potential to boost the global economy by \$1 trillion annually by 2040.³ It is critical that Congress continue to fund research for conditions which disproportionately impact women and ensure that women and men are represented equally in clinical trials.

Differences/disparities in biological sex appear in many areas affecting women's health. Cardiovascular disease, for example, is the leading cause of death for women, impacting over 60 million women in the US.⁴ Despite this, women still face delayed diagnoses, largely as a result of the lack of research into the biological differences between how cardiovascular disease manifests differently in men and women.⁵ Similar differences/disparities in biological sex exist in the screening, diagnosis and treatment of other diseases, including cancer, Alzheimer's, and many autoimmune diseases. Without continued research and funding, these gaps will only be exacerbated.

Additionally, women in the US continue to face significant reproductive and maternal health gaps in diagnosis and care. The US has the highest rate of maternal deaths of any high-income nation, 80% of which are likely preventable.⁶ Endometriosis, a condition which affects approximately 6.5 million people in the US, was misdiagnosed as another health condition in over 75% of women.⁷ Alarming, menopause, a stage of health which will impact half of the population, is not properly considered in 99% of preclinical aging studies.⁸ For the wellbeing of all women, it is crucial that funding be restored to maternal and reproductive health initiatives.

While there are still improvements to be made, research which includes women and focuses on how health conditions manifest differently in men and women, has pushed forward lifesaving advances in recent years. For example, robotic surgery has been introduced to complete coronary bypass surgery on women, who tend to have smaller arteries.⁹ Research, which has

¹ Association of American Medical Colleges, "[Why We Know so Little About Women's Health](#)," March 26, 2024.

² Science Daily, "[Lack of Females in Drug Dose Trials Leads to Overmedicated Women](#)", August 12, 2020.

³ McKinsey Health Institute, "[Closing the Women's Health Gap: A \\$1 trillion Opportunity to Improve Lives and Economies](#)," January 17, 2024.

⁴ Society for Women's Health Research, "[Closing the Gender Gap for Women's Heart Health](#)," September 19, 2024.

⁵ McKinsey Health Institute, "[The State of US Women's Heart Health: A Path to Improved Health and Financial Outcomes](#)," June 25, 2024.

⁶ Commonwealth Fund, "[Insights into the US Maternal Mortality Crisis: An International Comparison](#), June 4, 2024."

⁷ National Library of Medicine, "[Patient Perceptions of Misdiagnosis of Endometriosis: Results From an Online National Survey](#)," May 26 2020.

⁸ Harvard Medical School, "[How Gaps in Research Lead to Gaps in Care for Aging Women](#)," January 10, 2024.

⁹ Annals of Cardiothoracic Surgery, "[Minimally Invasive Surgical Coronary Artery Bypass in Women](#)," November 27, 2023.

led to earlier detection and more effective therapies, has resulted in the breast cancer death rate decreasing 44% from 1989 to 2022.¹⁰ These are just a few of the vital advances in women's health that have been made possible as a result of funding for women's health research.

Current research in the areas of maternal health, cancers specific to women such as cervical and breast cancer, mental health, eating disorders, sexually transmitted diseases that affect women, vaccines and pregnancy, and much more continues to be critical and we urge continued robust investment in these areas of research. We also strongly support the continuation of the existing, longitudinal women's health studies, such as the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) and the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN) initiative, led by the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute of Nursing Research, the Office of Research on Women's Health and the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. The SWAN initiative examines the physical, biological, psychological and social changes women experience during their middle years. Both the WHI and the SWAN have provided key data and findings to inform our understanding of women's health.

We call on you to restore and protect robust funding for research which studies women's health and the ways conditions both manifest differently in women and men, and the ways women and men respond differently to treatments. Ongoing women's health research funding is essential to ensuring that the progress we have made in improving women's health outcomes over the past 30 years does not regress. Women across the nation are counting on you to protect their health and wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America
Alliance for Aging Research
American Society of Reproductive Medicine
Association of Jewish Psychologists
Caregiver Action Network
Cognito Therapeutics
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
HealthyWomen
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network
Infusion Access Foundation
Jewish Women International
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease)
Lewy Body Dementia Resource Center
March of Dimes
National Association of Activity Professionals
National Council of Jewish Women
Neurotech Network
Organic Acidemia Association
Patients Rising
RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
SCAD Alliance (Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection)
Second Wind Dreams, Inc.
Tigerlily Foundation
The Balm in Gilead, Inc.

¹⁰ American Cancer Society, "[Key Statistics for Breast Cancer](#)."

The Black Women's Health Imperative
Women's Health Access Matters (WHAM)