

June 21, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Members Murray and Cole:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing physicians, researchers, consumers and other stakeholders, thank you for your commitment to increasing funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.<sup>1</sup> As you work toward completion and passage of an FY2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill, we ask that you specifically prioritize the federal investment in women's health research through the NIH.

Women represent half of the US population. As such, conditions and diseases that are specific to women's health, or those that present differently in women than men, must be a priority for federally-funded research. Although significant changes in research design and practice have increased the proportion of women included in research trials in the recent past, knowledge gaps remain because of a continued lack of adequate inclusion of women, including women of color, and especially those who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Prioritizing the inclusion of women in clinical trials is necessary to provide the best evidence-based care for women. Further efforts are needed to ensure that research is designed to include representation of all potentially affected individuals, including those in diverse and underserved populations who often are not fully represented in current study designs.

In addition to increased financial investment in women's health research in the FY2020 appropriations bill, we ask that you include Report Language aimed at ensuring we have an accurate account of current women's health research initiatives at NIH. We appreciate the inclusion of Report Language in the House bill and urge the Senate to mirror that language. Specifically, we ask that you call on NIH, under the leadership of the Office of Research on Women's Health and the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), to do the following: report on the total dollar amount of research invested in health conditions specific to women over the last ten years, including but not limited to pregnancy, gynecologic oncology, and infertility; provide a list of which

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<sup>1</sup> Ehley, B. (2019, April 11). Senate appropriators aim to increase NIH budget. *Politico*, Retrieved from <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2019/04/senate-appropriators-aim-to-increase-nih-budget-3068846>

Institutes provide the highest amount of funding toward health research on conditions specific to women; and report on how and whether funding for research in this area is coordinated across the NIH.

We look forward to working with you toward our shared goal of increased federal funding for NIH, and specifically the enhanced investment in women's health research. Thank you for your consideration of this investment in the FY2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. For any questions or to discuss further, please don't hesitate to contact Katie Schubert at [kschubert@smfm.org](mailto:kschubert@smfm.org) or Rachel Tetlow at [rtetlow@acog.org](mailto:rtetlow@acog.org).

Sincerely,

2020 Mom  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
AASM Foundation  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association for Dental Research  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Gynecological & Obstetrical Society  
American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS)  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation  
Endocrine Society  
Magee-Womens Research Institute  
March of Dimes  
National PKU Alliance  
North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology  
Preeclampsia Foundation  
RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association  
Society of Family Planning  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Reproductive Investigation  
Society for the Study of Reproduction  
Society of Toxicology  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Teratology Society