

# FRIENDS OF ORWH

*NIH Office of Research  
on Women's Health*

September 23, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Leahy and DeLauro, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:

Thank you for your continued leadership in supporting the health and well-being of Americans—particularly through the public health emergencies, such as COVID-19 and monkeypox, that we have faced over the past two years. We recognize that these are challenging times and appreciate the efforts that you and your teams have poured into charting our nation's path forward.

However, given the sizable hit that the pandemic has already taken on the U.S. scientific enterprise, the Friends of the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) Executive Committee, on behalf of the coalition, asks that you pass fiscal year (FY) 2023 appropriations legislation without delay and that the legislation include at least \$49 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and at least \$62.5 million for the NIH's ORWH.

While it is critical that we avert government shutdowns, continuing resolutions (CRs) have harmful short- and long-term effects on the scientific enterprise. Not only do they create job uncertainty for those individuals working on grant-funded projects, but they also cause disruption and destabilization to the scientific enterprise more broadly. CRs stifle research already in progress by freezing funds as well as delay future research by keeping the NIH from being able to commit anticipated resources to new and multi-year grants and projects. They also result in the inefficient use of resources, which lowers the capacity of these entities to carry out their respective missions.

The critical need for steady, timely investments into our nation's scientific enterprise cannot be overstated. The ORWH, for example, serves as the NIH hub for coordinating women's health research and ensures that women are appropriately represented in the biomedical and behavioral research supported by the NIH. Throughout the year, the Office works to strengthen

research into conditions that differently, disproportionately, or solely affect women; advise on matters related to women's health; and support the advancement of women in the biomedical research workforce. In its more than 30-year history, the ORWH has helped transform what we think of as "women's health," improved our understanding of the possible influences of sex and gender on health and disease, and developed resources to help scientists more efficiently and effectively recruit and retain women participants in clinical studies—a particularly important role in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The importance of our nation's federal research entities, including ORWH, has been made even clearer over the course of the past two years. Especially now, we cannot afford to threaten robust, predictable funding for these institutions, which contribute to our nation's health, security, and well-being. In order to ensure that these agencies can keep pace with our nation's rapidly evolving needs and priorities, respond to future threats, and continue building upon the progress that they have already made, we request that you work in a bipartisan manner to follow regular order and pass spending legislation by the new fiscal year on October 1, 2022.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Lindsey Horan at [lindsey@swhr.org](mailto:lindsey@swhr.org) with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Society for Women's Health Research  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Endocrine Society  
HealthyWomen  
National Association for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
WomenHeart