

FRIENDS OF ORWH

*NIH Office of Research
on Women's Health*

December 11, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees:

As organizations committed to advancing the health and well-being of women, we, the undersigned members of the Friends of the Office of Research on Women's Health Executive Committee, write to urge you to prioritize funding for women's health research in the upcoming fiscal year. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that our nation invests in this critical area to close the gender health gap and improve outcomes for women and their families across the country.

Understanding this as a critical moment for the medical research enterprise, we respectfully request that the final fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations legislation include at least **\$153.9 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH)**, in line with the President's FY 2025 budget proposal. Additionally, we urge you to support the broader public health and scientific community's request for **\$51.303 billion in base funding for NIH**. This funding would enable the agency to keep pace with the biomedical research and development price index (BRDPI) and provide a meaningful 5% growth to advance its research, programs, and initiatives, ultimately strengthening the nation's health.

The ORWH plays a pivotal role in advancing women's health research by ensuring that sex and gender differences are considered in studies and by integrating women's health research across the NIH and federal government priorities. Over the past 30 years, ORWH has made remarkable strides in developing policies to include women in NIH clinical trials, increasing research on sex differences, and preparing the next generation of researchers to focus on women's health issues. The ORWH's work has helped ensure that women's health is not an afterthought but a central consideration in scientific discovery.

Despite these advances, significant gaps remain in our understanding of women's health, and the research infrastructure needed to address these disparities is underfunded. The Friends of ORWH recognizes that Congress faces numerous priorities in this fiscal and political climate. However, investing in women's health research is one of the most impactful decisions Congress can make. Women continue to face challenges in health care, including gaps in research and

treatment, which can be addressed through sustained, increased funding and strategic investment in research that considers women's unique health needs.

We greatly appreciate the support Congress has provided to ORWH in the past, and we respectfully request that this commitment be continued by ensuring that ORWH has the resources necessary to continue its vital work. The momentum around women's health research presents an ideal opportunity to invest now, ultimately leading to improved health and well-being for women across the nation in the years to come.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and for your continued support in efforts to improve women's health. We look forward to working with you to advance this cause. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lindsey Miltenberger with the Society for Women's Health Research at lindsey@swhr.org.

Sincerely,

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