

In response to *The Washington Post's* [Federal Privacy Law Lags Far Behind Personal Health Technologies](#):

Dear Editor,

The Society for Women's Health Research wishes to call attention to the November 17 article "[Federal Privacy Law Lags Far Behind Personal Health Technologies](#)." We applaud the Washington Post for running this article, as it brings attention to an increasingly important issue in today's technology-focused world.

As the thought leader promoting advocacy, research, and education on sex differences and improving women's health; we recognize the importance of privacy issues surrounding data collected by health apps and commercial products. For example, genetic and other biomarker information, if leaked, could lead to discrimination in the workplace and other settings.

SWHR has a long history of supporting efforts to protect patients' health data and our advocacy efforts aided the passage of the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2008, which prohibits the use of genetic information in health insurance and employment decisions.

Recognizing the FDA currently plans to regulate only a subset of medical apps, we call on the FDA and HHS officials to review its policies and consider the implications of health information data breaches among non-HIPAA covered entities moving forward.

Sincerely,

Society for Women's Health Research