



May 21, 2021

Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Room 120F
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

On behalf of the following undersigned organizations, we want to congratulate you on your confirmation as Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). In addition, we are writing to request a meeting to discuss your strategy and vision for women's health within HHS. Our organizations are focused on women's health and have a longstanding interest in advancing women's health across the lifespan, promoting the inclusion of women in biomedical research, ensuring health equity and improving women's health care.

Specifically, we have advocated for the establishment of the Offices of Women's Health (OWH) across HHS since they were created in the 1990s, and subsequently many of these offices were established in statute as part of the Affordable Care Act in 2010. We would like to discuss how we can support efforts to ensure that Offices of Women's Health (OWHs) are meeting their statutory goals.

The Office on Women's Health within the Office of the Secretary at HHS, and also those across HHS agencies, including the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Office of Women's Health (OWH) at the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), are essential to prioritizing, coordinating and highlighting the health needs of women across the health continuum and lifespan.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these offices' important roles in federal women's health policies and programs. We are concerned that the OWHs' roles and scope have diminished since 2017, and we are optimistic that under your leadership the OWHs and women's health broadly will be not only valued but advanced.

Secretary Becerra

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Your leadership and prolonged commitment to the health and well-being of women and girls is well known and we thank you for all you have done to advance women's health. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss women's health priorities with you. Should you have any questions, or to schedule a meeting, please contact Kathryn Schubert at the Society for Women's Health Research at kathryn@swhr.org or (202) 297-5122.

Sincerely,

Kathryn G. Schubert, MPP
President & CEO
Society for Women's Health Research

Susan F. Wood, PhD
Director
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health

Linda Goler Blount, MPH
President & CEO
Black Women's Health Imperative

Celina Gorre, MPH, MPA
Chief Executive Officer
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for
Women with Heart Disease

Cynthia A. Pearson
Executive Director
National Women's Health Network
Co-founder
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need