



July 25, 2023

The Honorable Kat Cammack
Co-Chair
Bipartisan Women's Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susie Lee
Co-Chair
Bipartisan Women's Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Monica De La Cruz
Co-Vice Chair
Bipartisan Women's Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Emilia Strong Sykes
Co-Vice Chair
Bipartisan Women's Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Co-Chairs Cammack and Lee and Co-Vice Chairs De La Cruz and Sykes:

The [Society for Women's Health Research](https://www.swhr.org) (SWHR), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting research on sex differences in disease and improving women's health through science, policy, and education, appreciates your recent outreach to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Becerra urging the prioritization of women's cardiovascular health. Addressing cardiovascular health is a national imperative, as cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death for both women and men in the United States, despite many CVD deaths being preventable.

As noted in your letter to Secretary Becerra, despite the significant toll of CVD within the United States, the "widespread lack of CVD awareness and subsequent lack of screening, diagnosis, and treatment only broaden the impact this disease has on women." These challenges are exacerbated by declining awareness of CVD among women in the United States. There is clearly much work to be done in order to educate the public and, therein, improve health and quality of life outcomes.

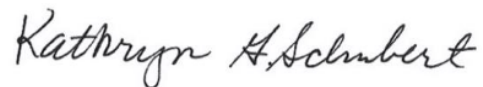
As an organization committed to closing research, clinical care, knowledge, and education gaps for all women, SWHR recognizes the tremendous need to improve education and awareness about heart disease (including its signs, symptoms, and risk factors), reduce heart disease disparities, and ensure that federal policies promote—and do not unnecessarily hinder—access to appropriate and timely screenings, medications, and care. In fact, SWHR is in the early stages of a Heart Health Policy Program, which will bring together an interdisciplinary group of experts to discuss the state of women's cardiovascular health in the United States and how changes in policy could improve women's cardiovascular—and overall—health.

For all of these reasons, we were grateful to see your leadership on this critical public health issue and will seek to amplify your efforts. We must work in concert to increase awareness of cardiovascular disease, improve diagnosis through regular cholesterol screenings, close quality gaps and reduce health disparities, and improve access to treatments, such as cholesterol lowering PCSK9 inhibitors.

Again, SWHR would like to thank you for being a champion for women by raising attention about women's heart health. We look forward to working with you to chart a path forward on this significant public health issue and to close health care quality gaps and related disparities.

If SWHR can be of assistance to you on this work, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at kathryn@swhr.org or contact SWHR's Chief Advocacy Officer Lindsey Horan at lindsey@swhr.org or (202) 496-5003.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn G. Schubert".

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