

October 25, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

On behalf of the Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR) and Perelel Health, we are writing to urge your support of a federal appropriations bill that adequately funds research on women's health. Nearly 15,000 people have [joined us](#) in this effort. For far too long, women have been overlooked in the health research enterprise, and we believe it is critical to address this disparity through meaningful investments.

SWHR is a more than 30-year-old national nonprofit dedicated to advancing women's health through science, policy, and education while promoting research on sex differences to optimize women's health. Perelel Health is a doctor-founded women's health company that supports sustained and prioritized federal funding for women's health research. Given our mutual interests in enhancing women's health across the lifespan, SWHR and Perelel recognize how ensuring equitable investments into women's health is an essential first step toward creating a world where women are healthy, supported, and empowered.

Women are disproportionately, differently, or uniquely impacted by a variety of health conditions including but not limited to Alzheimer's disease, autoimmune conditions, cardiovascular diseases, and reproductive conditions like endometriosis or uterine fibroids. While progress has been made to improve the representation of women's health across the medical research enterprise, it still continues to be overshadowed. For example, less than 11% of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding is allocated to studying women's health.¹ Because of existing disparities in medical research and access to quality healthcare, women are expected to spend 25% more of their lives in poor health, relative to men.² Underfunding can lead to misdiagnosis, gaps in medical education, disparities in maternal healthcare, and significant barriers to the knowledge and care women need and deserve. For these reasons, robust funding for federal agencies, including NIH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and

¹ Temkin SM, Noursi S, Regensteiner JG, Stratton P, Clayton JA. Perspectives From Advancing National Institutes of Health Research to Inform and Improve the Health of Women: A Conference Summary. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2022;140(1):10-19. doi:10.1097/AOG.0000000000004821

² *Closing the Women's Health Gap: A \$1 Trillion Opportunity to Improve Lives and Economies.* McKinsey Health Institute; 2024. <https://www.mckinsey.com/mhi/our-insights/closing-the-womens-health-gap-a-1-trillion-dollar-opportunity-to-improve-lives-and-economies>

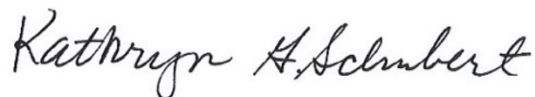
Drug Administration (FDA), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Department of Defense (DoD), is vital to addressing these issues.

While we appreciate efforts to avoid a government shutdown, long and drawn-out continuing resolutions (CRs) pose a significant threat to all health research, including that on the health of women. Sustained funding is essential to ensure that medical research can proceed without disruption. Temporary measures like CRs lead to uncertainty and instability in funding, making it difficult for federal researchers and institutions to plan and execute critical public health studies. To truly advance the health and well-being of women, we must ensure that funding remains steady and reliable, allowing for the uninterrupted progress necessary to drive meaningful change.

As you engage in discussions on FY2025 funding and enter into the FY2026 process, we urge you to recognize the urgent need for funding women's health research—an issue that should not be up for debate. Bipartisan support is essential, and we look to your leadership to ensure that women's health research receives the attention and funding it rightfully deserves.

SWHR and Perelel stand ready to answer any questions you may have about the importance of investing in women's health. We may be contacted at kathryn@swhr.org or at@perelelhealth.com. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



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



Alex Taylor
Co-Founder & CEO
Perelel Health

cc. The Hon. Robert Aderholt, Chair
House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee

The Hon. Tammy Baldwin, Chair
Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee

The Hon. Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member
Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee