



January 21, 2025

Vince Haley, Director
Domestic Policy Council
The Donald J. Trump Transition Team
Office of the President-Elect
1717 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Haley:

On behalf of the Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR), I extend our congratulations to the incoming administration and offer our organization as a resource through the presidential transition and as the administration works to prioritize a variety of areas in health care.

Founded in 1990, SWHR is the leading voice in advancing women's health through science, policy, and education while promoting research on sex differences to optimize women's health. We were founded to rectify women's active exclusion from medical research, which led to research that overlooked the fundamental biological differences between women and men. This exclusion also meant there was a lack of data on conditions that uniquely or disproportionately affected women, such as endometriosis, maternal health, and autoimmune and immune-mediated diseases and conditions, perpetuating disparities in diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes.

SWHR has championed policies that address research gaps and unmet needs in women's health – which have only widened over the last three decades. Although women are now routinely included in medical research and make up a larger portion of the scientific workforce and offices of women's health exist across the U.S. government, there is much more that can be done to ensure that American women are healthier and contributing positively to society, that their quality of life is improved, and that they are in the best position to drive economic progress.

Today, we remain committed to improving outcomes for women's health because we know that by investing in women's health research, we not only address the gap that exists in women's health, but we also gain insights that benefit men as well; women's health intersects with family and community-well-being.

As we consider our key priorities and how to close critical research, care, and education gaps, we see a path forward that would yield tremendous benefits on women's health across the

lifespan. We respectfully request your partnership to ensure that the unique needs of women are prioritized and addressed across your administration. SWHR's priorities align with the broader goal of improving the health and well-being of all Americans:

- **Promote and Support Increased Funding for Sex-Specific Research.** Women and men often experience diseases differently in terms of symptoms, progression, and treatment outcomes. Ensuring women are appropriately represented in clinical trials and that sex differences are analyzed and reported is critical to developing effective, personalized medical treatments. This research not only fills significant gaps in scientific understanding but also improves the quality of care and health outcomes for everyone.
- **Prioritize Research into Healthy Aging.** There are myriad issues in women's health related to healthy aging that deserve increased attention in order to better support women across the United States. From menopause (which every woman who menstruates will experience) to Alzheimer's disease (of which two-thirds of those diagnosed are women) to heart health (for which women experience disparities in diagnosis and clinical treatment), there are several policy solutions that can be implemented to improve health and quality of life outcomes.
- **Address Root Causes of Health Care Gaps.** Despite advancements in health care, women continue to face significant gaps in clinical care due to systemic biases, insufficient provider training on gender-specific issues, and geographic and financial barriers. These gaps often result in delayed diagnoses, mismanagement of chronic conditions, and inadequate attention to unique health concerns. Addressing these disparities is essential to ensuring equitable and effective care from all women across the country.
- **Elevate and Integrate Women's Health Research Across the Federal Government.** Prioritizing existing research avenues across the federal government – and ensuring greater coordination, efficiency, and accountability – would go a long way to further innovation and discoveries in women's health across the lifespan. We hope to work with the administration to determine the optimal ways to foster interagency collaboration, streamline funding opportunities, and embed a gender lens into research priorities. Elevating women's health within federal institutions and across the private sector will drive innovation, address long-standing disparities, and improve health and quality of life outcomes.
- **Tackle Research Workforce Needs.** There are critical workforce shortages – both within the women's health research enterprise as well as in areas of health care that may differently or disproportionately affect women (e.g., rheumatology, geriatrics). SWHR would appreciate working with the administration to address both issues in parallel. Strengthening the workforce is essential to sustaining innovation and making sure that

research reflects the populations for whom it is intended to serve.

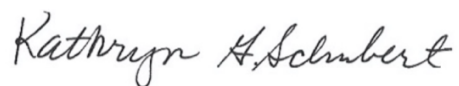
- **Increase Inclusion of Pregnant and Lactating Populations in Research.** A bipartisan effort that began during the first Trump administration and has spanned multiple administrations is improving the inclusion of pregnant and lactating populations in research to help support healthy moms and babies. Despite the number of women who give birth each year, many medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have no human pregnancy data, and many have insufficient data to determine risk to the infant. The Task Force on Research Specific to Pregnant Women and Lactating Women (PRGLAC) made a series of recommendations on how to rectify this situation, but many of the recommendations have yet to be implemented. SWHR encourages the administration to revisit these recommendations and work with Congress to implement them so pregnant women, their families, and health care providers can make informed health care decisions.

SWHR has a proven track record of fostering collaboration between policymakers, researchers, health care providers, women's health stakeholders, and advocates to drive progress in women's health. We are eager to lend our expertise to your administration as you shape policies that affect the health of women and families nationwide.

To this end, we welcome the opportunity to meet with representatives of your administration to discuss these priorities in greater detail. Together, we can ensure that women's health remains a cornerstone of a healthier, more prosperous America.

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues. We look forward to working together to advance the health and well-being of women across our nation.

Sincerely,



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

cc. John Brooks, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services landing team
Dorothy Fink, MD, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services