



June 30, 2026

President  
Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Jay Bhattacharya, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director  
National Institutes of Health  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear President Trump, Secretary Kennedy, and Dr. Bhattacharya:

As members of the Democratic Women's Caucus, we write to express our disappointment with your continued dismissal of women's health research. Over a year ago, we sent you a letter requesting that your administration abandon reckless policies that were directly impacting women's health research. Specifically, we urged you to remove the research funding cap placed on the National Institutes of Health (NIH), rescind the list of banned words for research grants which included 'women' and 'females,' and to prioritize funding for women's health research.<sup>1</sup> We received a response on July 18, 2025 from NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya promoting a women's health research website, while failing to address a single point made in our letter.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, over the past year, your administration has refused to address the overall obliteration of research projects focused on women's health. **Once again, we call on your administration to address this head-on and restore, integrate, and prioritize research for women's health.**

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1 Democratic Women's Caucus. (2025, April 9). *Democratic Women's Caucus Leaders Demand Trump Admin Stop Attacking Women's Health Research*. U.S. House of Representatives.

<https://democraticwomenscaucus.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=379>

2 Bhattacharya, Jay. (2025, July 18). *Response to Democratic Women's Caucus*. National Institutes of Health.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:2c814b12-35a6-4dd6-97cb-1df386b3a29b>

Your administration single-handedly compromised over 30 years of steady progress to bolster women's health research. While funding was restored to the Women's Health Initiative<sup>3</sup> after our advocacy and the courts stepped in to address the NIH research funding cap,<sup>4</sup> your administration has not taken meaningful action to address the larger trend of threatening to defund existing and ongoing women's health-related research, specifically due to the list of banned words. **As a result, the number of women's health research projects decreased by 31% in 2025.**<sup>5</sup> After the *National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993* (Public Law 103-43) required women to be included in clinical trials, it took over 30 years for 7% of all healthcare research to be focused on conditions that exclusively affect women.<sup>6</sup> That percentage will be even lower now that your administration has taken a wrecking ball to women's health research projects. This is not simply a matter of terminology. By discouraging the use of terms like "women" and "female," your administration is compromising valuable information as it pertains to women's health not only across those conditions exclusively impacting women, but across those that disproportionately or differently impact women like Alzheimer's disease and heart disease. Without sustained funding and support, researchers will be unable to develop effective treatments and interventions for health conditions that women experience, like menopause, endometriosis, Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (formerly known as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome, or PCOS), and more.

Women constitute half the population and utilize healthcare more than men.<sup>7</sup> Yet, women's health research remains under-researched and under-addressed. The treatments and care that women receive are based on research on predominantly men.<sup>8</sup> Gutting women's health research does not make Americans healthier; rather, it's a clear threat to women's lives. It is past time for your administration to prioritize women's health research and clearly and immediately remove the ban on 'women' and 'females' in NIH-funded research.

Sincerely,

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3 National Public Radio. (2025, April 24). *In a reversal, the Trump administration restores funding for women's health study*. <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/04/24/nx-s1-5376473/hhs-restores-funding-for-womens-health-initiative>

4 American Council on Education. (2026, April 13). *Trump Administration Does Not Seek to Appeal to Supreme Court, Indirect Costs Cap Litigation Concluded*.

<https://www.acenet.edu/Policy-Advocacy/Pages/Law-Courts/Association-Lawsuit-NIH-FA.aspx>

5 The Washington Post. (2026, April 19). *Where U.S. science has been hit hardest after Trump's first year*.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2026/04/19/science-research-funding-cuts-trump/>

6 World Economic Forum. (2025, May 21). *Why more must be done to close the women's health research gap*.

<https://www.weforum.org/stories/2025/05/why-more-must-be-done-to-close-the-women-s-health-research-gap/>

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.



Sydney Kamlager Dove  
Co-Chair  
Policy Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



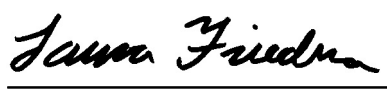
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Policy Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



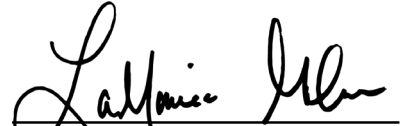
Frederica S. Wilson  
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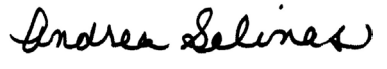
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Member of Congress




LaMonica McIver  
New Member Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus




Joyce Beatty  
National Leaders &  
Advocacy Organizations  
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Democratic Women's Caucus



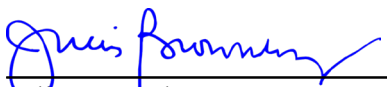
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Congressional Hispanic  
Caucus Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Pramila Jayapal  
Congressional Asian Pacific  
American Caucus Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



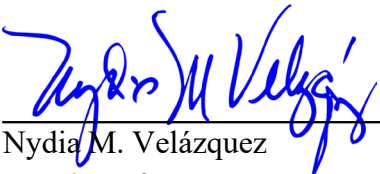
Kathy Castor  
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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



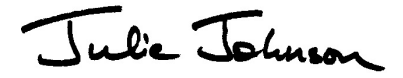
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Co-Chair  
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Democratic Women's Caucus



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Member of Congress



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Progressive Caucus Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

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Ayanna Pressley  
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Reproductive Healthcare Task  
Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus

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Judy Chu  
Co-Chair & Liaison  
Reproductive Healthcare Task  
Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus

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Nellie Pou  
Member of Congress

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Lori Trahan  
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Yasamin Ansari  
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Lateefah Simon  
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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Chair  
Democratic Women's Caucus

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Debbie Dingell  
Senate Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus

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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

*Robin L. Kelly*

Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

*Adelita S. Grijalva*

Adelita S. Grijalva  
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Chellie Pingree  
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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

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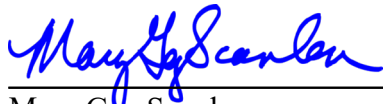
Nikema Williams  
Chief Whip  
Democratic Women's Caucus

*Haley M. Stevens*

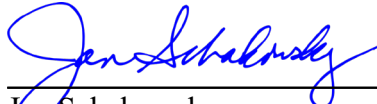
Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

*Emily Randall*

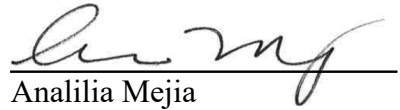
Emily Randall  
Whip  
Democratic Women's Caucus



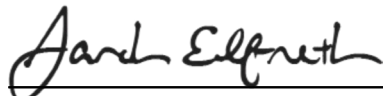
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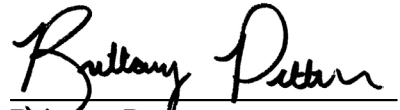
Analilia Mejia  
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



Brittany Petersen  
Co-Chair  
Caregiving Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Melanie Stansbury  
Co-Chair  
Member Services Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus

CC:

Russell Vought  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th St NW  
Washington, DC 20503