



American Medical Women's Association

The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

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January 23, 2019

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: A resolution expressing support for the designation of a "Women's Health Research Day"

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

The American Medical Women's Association thanks you for efforts and interest in introducing a House Resolution that would establish an annual Women's Health Research Day. Continued research in the area of women's health is crucial in the push toward "precision medicine" and to improve the health of people in the United States.

The scope of conditions included in "women's health" continues to expand, as differences between women and men have been identified in all areas of health and disease. However, for some conditions knowledge is limited to differences in incidence or prevalence. As research up to this point has primarily focused on men, with the assumption that results among women would be similar, there needs to be additional attention and resources directed at identifying how women experience health conditions differently. These differences would be seen in terms of risk factors, prevention, presentation, and responses to treatment.

The American Medical Women's Association, established in 1915 to improve the health of women, includes practicing and research physicians representing all specialties, residents in training, and medical and pre-medical students. One of AMWA's priorities is the education of the public, as well as health care professionals, on sex and gender differences in disease to ensure that women and men receive the most up to date medical care. Additional research on the broad scope of what is defined as "women's health" is clearly needed.

AMWA endorses and applauds your efforts in advancing research in women's health. We would be happy to serve as a supporting organization in this effort, provide letters or testimony, if needed, to bring your proposed resolution to fruition. Thank you for bringing this important issue to national attention. We look forward to working with you and your office.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Templeton, MD

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Past-President, American Medical Women's Association

Connie Newman

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President, American Medical Women's Association

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