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November 17, 2017

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Resolution Recognizing the Seriousness of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome

Dear Chairman Burgess and Ranking Member Green,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations committed to the health and improved quality of life for women and girls with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), we are writing to bring to your attention, and ask for your support of **H.Res.495**, the resolution designating September as PCOS Awareness Month and recognizing the seriousness of the disorder. This resolution will help to bring critical nationwide attention to PCOS, one of the most common human disorders and the most common endocrine (hormone) disorder in women. PCOS is a genetic, reproductive, hormonal and metabolic disorder that affects an estimated five to 10 million women and girls in the U.S. and more than 10 percent worldwide. PCOS has become one of the most pervasive and underserved public health issues that threatens the mental and physical health, and quality of life of girls, women and their families. The disorder can lead to obesity and the most common causes of death in women including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

One of the most heartbreaking challenges of PCOS is its effect on fertility and family building. PCOS is the most common cause of female infertility. PCOS in pregnancy increases the risk of complications such as gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, miscarriage, and fetal and infant death. Researchers have also found that women with PCOS are twice as likely to be hospitalized than other women, most frequently due to infertility and cardiometabolic issues associated with PCOS.

More than 50 percent of women and girls with PCOS are going undiagnosed, putting them at even greater risk for deadly illnesses which can be prevented or delayed with proper diagnosis, treatment and care. This resolution seeks to call attention to the need for improved public awareness, education and increased research, to help with advancements in the field and improved outcomes for women and girls with polycystic ovary syndrome.

We ask for your support of this resolution. If we can provide any assistance in this effort, please contact Sasha Ottey, Executive Director of PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association at info@pcoschallenge.org or (404) 855-7244, or Martha Cramer in Congressman David Scott's office at martha.cramer@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-2939.

Sincerely,
Academy for Eating Disorders
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Academy of Dermatology Association

American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses (AAHFN)
American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
American Association of Suicidology
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Electrology Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Medical Women's Association
American Sleep Apnea Association
American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Urogynecologic Society
Androgen Excess and PCOS Society
Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association
Association for Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
The Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN)
Binge Eating Disorder Association
Black Women's Health Imperative
The Cardiovascular & Metabolic Health Foundation
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Endocrine Society
Endometriosis Association
HealthyWomen
Hormone Health Network
Latino Medical Student Association
March of Dimes
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians
National Eating Disorders Association
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
National Stroke Association
North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
Obesity Action Coalition (OAC)
Obesity Medicine Association
The Obesity Society
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association
Postpartum Health Alliance
Preeclampsia Foundation
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society for Health Psychology
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (SREI)
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education
Tinina Q. Cade Foundation
The White Dress Project