

AMWA IUSM students, members of the Advocacy Committee, had the following letter to the editor published in the Indy Star Newspaper 10/28/18.

### **Medical students pledge to prioritize women's rights**

For months we were on edge, and for the last two weeks, we have been in disbelief. The successful confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court sends a disturbing message to women across the nation – that even now, our accounts will still be subject to a media circus of undignified public scrutiny. Kavanaugh's confirmation places a foreboding cloud over the fate of women's health care while normalizing sexual assault against women. We write today as medical students, and from what we have learned, health is the summation of social and physiological factors. A woman's right to speak out against unfit nominees to public office, her right to comprehensive reproductive care, and most certainly her right to be believed in situations of sexual harassment, assault, violence, and rape are all critical to her overall health. We lend our support to women who must bear the consequences of potentially detrimental Supreme Court decisions following Kavanaugh's confirmation, and we are working within our present roles to achieve women's equity in the professional school environment across the United States. Finally, we solemnly pledge to use our future credentials to stand between our patients and injustice, actively working towards a society that prioritizes women's rights, or in other words, human rights.

Jessica Chiang Stephanie Asdell Aida Haddad *American Medical Women's Association advocacy task force members*