



# ADVOCACY ACTION ALERT!

Congress is currently drafting its fiscal year 2026 spending bill, and there have been proposals to cut the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by as much as 40%. Such drastic cuts would severely threaten lifesaving research, particularly in the area of women's health, which has been historically funded and overlooked.

**Tell Congress: Do NOT cut NIH funding and protect women's health research!**

Earlier this week, more than 100 individuals and national organizations wrote to Congress asking them to protect NIH funding, and specifically for the critical women's health research that it conducts. Now it's **your turn** to speak out!

**We need your voice to ensure that women's health research isn't on the chopping block.**

## What to do:

- **Find** your member of Congress
- **Take action:** Copy and paste the message below (feel free to personalize it as much as you'd like!) to send to your member and make your voice heard
- **Spread the word:** Encourage friends, family, and colleagues to speak up by posting on social media and using the hashtag #FundWomensHealth

[Find Your Representative](#)



[Find Your Senators](#)



Consider tagging @SWHR on X (Twitter), @Society for Women's Health Research on Facebook and LinkedIn, and @SWHR\_Official on Instagram.

# LETTER DRAFT

Dear [Senator / Representative] [Congress Member's Name]:

As a constituent with an interest in preserving federal investment in research into the health of women, I am writing to ensure that the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) funding and programming are continuing to invest in women's health research.

Sustained federal investment in biomedical research benefits all Americans. Funding for the NIH in particular has been a longstanding bipartisan priority, with members of Congress across party lines championing NIH as the crown jewel of federal investment – one of the wisest investments our nation can make for the safety, health, and well-being of our citizens.

However, I am deeply concerned about the news of significant cuts to research as well as what I am hearing about the uncertainty surrounding funding for critical studies that have advanced the health of women and understanding sex-based differences in disease. Among the many contributions that NIH has made to our understanding of health and disease, the NIH has been instrumental in advancing our understanding of how diseases affect women differently than men. Thanks to federal research investments from agencies like the NIH, we now know that women experience heart attacks differently, respond uniquely to certain medications, and face distinct health challenges throughout their lifespans. This knowledge has led to more precise treatments, improved outcomes, and saved countless lives.

A prime example of this work is the multi-site, longitudinal SWAN Study, which examines how the biological, psychological, and social changes women experience in midlife affect their overall health and long-term outcomes, providing valuable data for scientists, health care providers, women, and their families. Significant cuts to the NIH budget would mean that studies like SWAN – which represent good, efficient, and effective stewardship of taxpayer dollars – would not be able to be funded or would experience cuts at a level that would hinder their progress.

While the economic and public health benefits of investing in women's health research is evidenced, significant gaps remain in women's health – and this work must be prioritized. Women continue to be underrepresented in clinical trials for many conditions, and sex-based differences in disease progression and treatment response are still poorly understood across numerous medical specialties. Robust NIH funding is essential to closing these critical knowledge gaps.

As we continue in the fiscal year 2026 appropriations process, I ask that you keep federal investments in women's health research top of mind and continue to prioritize investments in our nation's research institutions.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Address or City/State]

[Your Organization, if applicable]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]