Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write with deep concern regarding the establishment of the Women's Health Task Force under Executive Order 14437 alongside the revocation of Executive Order 14120 and the Presidential Memorandum of November 13th, 2023. This administration has consistently canceled and rolled back vital women's health research programs, unequivocally targeting research dedicated to the health and experiences of women of color.

It is unclear how your Administration's initiative is not duplicative of ongoing work at the National Institutes of Health's Office of Research on Women's Health. Furthermore, the Administration's Women's Health Task Force does not address ongoing and unnecessary delays in research as this initiative will take time with unclear funding structure. Women's health across the lifespan is an integral area of scientific research that has for too long been underdeveloped; such research is necessary to promote the well-being of women across the United States.

Exploration of gender-specific issues impacting women is a priority with broad bipartisan support, and we have doubts about how inclusive the research will be given your previous Executive Orders 14148, 14151, 14173, and 14332, which raise serious doubts about the value you have for the experiences of Black, Hispanic, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, and Indigenous people. If diversity can be a federal target in federal employment and programming, it stands to reason it would not be considered a research priority despite known health disparities in the aforementioned populations.

If this is a serious effort, we request your answers to the following questions:

1. How will the initiatives put forth by Executive Order 14437 be integrated with ongoing and previous federal initiatives focused on women's health?

2. How will the research agenda:
    a. Include sampling from urban, suburban, and rural populations?
    b. Consider known barriers to health and health equity for Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American/Indigenous communities?

c. Be intentional about including women from the aforementioned communities, particularly as they have been historically underrepresented in clinical trials?
d. Be attentive to the known impact of the social determinants of health?
e. Consider and be responsive to the impact of the 235-word National Institutes of Health screening list that resulted in the cancellation of the case that is currently being litigated in *Salles, et al. v. National Institutes of Health, et al.*?

3. How will the research be funded, and who will determine what lines of inquiry are worthy of consideration?
    a. What role will political appointees have in determining the research agenda? What role will experts and researchers have?
    b. The executive order suggests that external parties and subject matter experts *may* be brought in via public meetings or other means of consultation. How will these parties be selected?

4. Will research include quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods studies? Executive Order 14303 emphasizes quantitative research as a gold standard, though qualitative mixed-methods studies may offer more nuanced interpretations of findings and identify new areas of research.
    a. Will resultant research priorities consider and expand on the findings of previous NIH-funded research?
    b. Will the research be inclusive of various stakeholder perspectives, including those of differing ideologies and lived experiences? Eliminating diverse programs from consideration and funding points to a direct tension that willfully excludes the experiences of underrepresented populations.

Establishing a robust research agenda requires financial and personnel investment and a task force that moves beyond conversation to research execution. The research agenda should build upon the science that preceded it, research based on facts and unrestricted by ideology.

To achieve its intended purpose, the task force *must* be more than messaging and should include stakeholders outside of the echo chamber you have cultivated within the White House through previous reductions in force[1] and revision of hiring standards for federal employees[2]. Research designs should include longitudinal studies, implementation studies, and evaluations at various stages of the research process. Such studies are critical to understanding efficacy, cost-efficiency,

[1] https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative
[2] https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/30/2025-02094/reforming-the-federal-hiring-process-and-restoring-merit-to-government-service

and quality of life and outcomes for the participants and intended beneficiaries of research. Breaking what works to create something that you get credit for is not in service of women and the diverse citizenry of this great Nation.

We request a written response to this letter within 30 days of receipt of this letter, December 21st, 2026.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Emily Randall
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
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Jill Tokuda
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Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Maxwell Alejandro Frost
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