



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**

655 K Street, N.W., Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20001-2399
T 202 828 0460 F 202 862 6161
www.aamc.org

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

April 27, 2015

The Honorable Jim Cooper
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cynthia Lummis
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Cooper and Lummis:

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is pleased to endorse the Research for All Act, which represents an important step toward gender equity in health by improving our understanding of sex differences in both basic and clinical research and creating expedited Food and Drug Administration review of drugs and biologics for male or female specific indications.

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association representing all 141 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 128,000 faculty members, 75,000 medical students, and 110,000 resident physicians.

This legislation builds on and supports initiatives that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is already undertaking to address many of these critical issues. The AAMC is encouraged that the legislation calls for the NIH Director to determine the appropriateness of including both male and female cells, tissues, or animals in basic research after consultation with the scientific and academic communities, and provides for the Director to exempt such inclusion where inappropriate. In particular, the AAMC supports the idea of the bill's proposed outreach and educational initiatives on the influence of sex as a variable in basic research to help develop a consensus within the scientific and academic communities on when it is appropriate for basic research to include both male and female cells, tissues, or animals.

The AAMC also fully supports the goal of increasing the participation of women in clinical trials and believes this legislation will help insure that by mandating NIH to update its guidelines to enforce better the current law on inclusion of women in clinical research.

The AAMC and its members thank you for your long-standing leadership in support of academic medicine and medical research, and we look forward to working with you on behalf of this legislation that promises better health outcomes for both women and men.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell G. Kirch".

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.