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April 16, 2015

The Honorable Jim Cooper
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cooper:

The Northwestern University Specialized Center of Research (SCOR) on Sex Differences entitled *Genes, Androgens and Intrauterine Environment in polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)* (P50 HD044405) enthusiastically supports the Research for All Act. Currently, few clinical trials formally investigate sex-specific differences in disease processes and treatment, despite the fact the many of the leading causes of death and disability in the US differentially affect men and women. Further, the basic biology of sex differences receives limited attention with the majority of studies using male animals or cell lines. The Research for All Act will make critical strides towards ensuring that sex and gender differences are formally investigated in biomedical and pharmaceutical research.

Northwestern University has a long and distinguished history of research in reproductive science, the biology of sex differences and women's health. Its Center for Reproductive Science was established in 1987. The University is a major recipient of funding from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH).

The Northwestern University SCOR was established in 2002 with funding from ORWH and NICHD. It focuses on elucidating the causes of PCOS, the most common endocrine disorder of reproductive age women and a leading risk factor for type 2 diabetes. Research by the Northwestern University SCOR has shown that there is a genetic susceptibility to PCOS and that male as well as female relatives are affected. Therefore, this disorder has important implications for men's as well as women's health.

The Research for All Act will ensure that all federally-funded research addresses these fundamentally important sex differences. The implications of this Act are enormous since the knowledge to be gained will improve the health not only of women but also of men.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Dunaif'.

Andrea Dunaif, MD
Director, Northwestern University Specialized Center of Research on Sex Differences