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The Women First Research Coalition (WFRC) is encouraged to see the report from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) titled a [New Vision for Women's Health Research](#), released on December 5. For the past three years, the WFRC has met with congressional champions and National Institutes of Health (NIH) leaders regarding the suboptimal support and research funding for reproductive and gynecologic conditions and wholeheartedly welcomed the congressional approval and funding through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 to support the NASEM study. We thank the Office of Research in Women's Health (ORWH) for contracting with the NASEM and requesting the extensive review and funding assessment of the state of women's health research (WHR) at the NIH.

One of WFRC's goals in advocating for this study was to get an accurate accounting of the NIH investment in WHR. The NASEM findings demonstrate the low funding allocation for WHR and also uncovered that the investment in WHR actually decreased from 9.7% to 7.9% during a decade (FY2013-FY2023) that saw an increase of 66% in the total NIH budget from \$26.3B to \$43.7B.

On the positive side, there are many important recommendations made by the NASEM report aimed at expanding knowledge, implementing policies and informing future efforts to increase the investment in WHR. The WFRC applauds NASEM for their forward-looking recommendation to create a dedicated institute for WHR and looks forward to future discussions about if and how this could be operationalized to ensure WHR receives the support it deserves. In the current climate, we call on stakeholders to advocate immediately in support of the following recommendations:

- (1) an increase in funding for women-specific disease studies or studies on conditions affecting men and women differently,
- (2) an expansion in the role of NIMHD,
- (3) the establishment of a dedicated WHR Fund within the NIH Director's Office, and
- (4) the expansion of training opportunities for researchers in women's health and for female investigators.

The WFRC and its constituent organizations will work collaboratively with Congress, the NIH Director's office and all NIH Institutes and Centers to help achieve as many of the recommendations as possible. We strongly believe that these proposals will help address the persistent gaps in WHR. We are all in this together with the ultimate goal of improving the health of greater than 50% of the population.