



July 24, 2018

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

RE: Sexism in Women's Health Care

Dear Dr. Collins,

NOW is a multi-issue, multi-strategy organization that takes a holistic approach to women's rights. Our priorities are winning economic equality and the ERA; championing abortion rights, reproductive freedom, and other women's health issues; opposing racism; fighting bigotry against the LGBTQIA community; and ending violence against women. The Central Phoenix Inez Casiano chapter serves the Phoenix metropolitan area.

The NIH, which is the largest medical public research body in the U.S., devotes comparatively little funding toward conditions that primarily affect women e.g. M.E., MS and other auto-immune diseases. This failure causes lack of diagnosis and treatments for these diseases and many health care professionals, due to lack of research, are not knowledgeable and are ill equipped to diagnose these illnesses. Because the doctors lack education, women often have to suffer for months and years to get a useful diagnosis because of stereotypes and misinformation. These failures cause pain and suffering and in some cases even needless death.

We ask that you increase funding for these diseases, educate scientists and medical professionals to remove stereotypes and misconceptions about women and diseases, that you post up-to-date information on your website, and advance treatment for these diseases. We look forward to your response. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Dianne Post, Attorney

Chapter Secretary