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WomenHeart praises the introduction of the Research for All Act of 2015

Legislation would improve NIH and FDA reporting of sex-specific research

Washington, DC (May 6, 2015) – WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease is praising the introduction today of the Research for All Act of 2015 by Representatives Jim Cooper (TN-5) and Cynthia Lummis (WY-At Large).

The bill shows a concerted effort to promote a greater understanding of sex differences in medicine and eliminate gender disparities in care, which would positively impact women living with heart disease.

The Research for All Act of 2015 would mandate updated reports on women and minority inclusion in all stages of medical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Food & Drug Administration (FDA). It would also direct the NIH to update its guidelines to improve inclusion of female cells, tissues and animals in pre-clinical research design, and require the FDA to guarantee that clinical trials for drugs and devices that are granted expedited review have sufficient participants to determine safety and effectiveness in both men and women.

“WomenHeart applauds Representatives Cooper and Lummis for introducing the Research for All Act of 2015 and urges other members of Congress to support this bill,” said Mary McGowan, Chief Executive Officer, WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease. “The passage of the Research for All Act would increase NIH and FDA oversight of sex-specific research and help resolve disparities in care between men and women with cardiovascular and other diseases,” she continued.

“Historically women with heart disease have faced misdiagnosis and inadequate treatment. Today the medical community has gained a better understanding of the differences between women and men with heart disease. The Research for All Act of 2015 would help expand this knowledge base and spur the development of cardiovascular drugs, devices and diagnostics that are safe and effective for women,” she concluded.

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About WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease is the nation's only patient centered organization serving the 42.7 million American women living with or at risk for heart disease – the leading cause of death for women. WomenHeart is solely devoted to advancing women's heart health through advocacy, community education, and the nation's only patient support network for women living with heart disease. WomenHeart is both a coalition and a community of thousands of members nationwide, including women heart patients and their families, healthcare professionals, and health advocates, all committed to helping women live longer, healthier lives. To join or donate, visit www.womenheart.org.