December 20, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
455 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Resolution Recognizing the Seriousness of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations committed to the health and improved quality of life for women and girls with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), we are writing to bring to your attention, and ask for your support of S.Res.336, the resolution designating September 2018 as PCOS Awareness Month and recognizing the seriousness of the disorder. This resolution will help to bring critical nationwide attention to PCOS, one of the most common human disorders and the most common endocrine (hormone) disorder in women. PCOS is a genetic, reproductive, hormonal and metabolic disorder that affects an estimated five to 10 million women and girls in the U.S. and more than 10 percent worldwide. PCOS has become one of the most pervasive and underserved public health issues that threatens the mental and physical health, and quality of life of girls, women and their families. The disorder can lead to obesity and the most common causes of death in women including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

One of the most heartbreaking challenges of PCOS is its effect on fertility and family building. PCOS is the most common cause of female infertility. PCOS in pregnancy increases the risk of complications such as gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, miscarriage, and fetal and infant death. Researchers have also found that women with PCOS are twice as likely to be hospitalized than other women, most frequently due to infertility and cardiometabolic issues associated with PCOS.

More than 50 percent of women and girls with PCOS are going undiagnosed, putting them at even greater risk for deadly illnesses which can be prevented or delayed with proper diagnosis, treatment and care. This resolution seeks to call attention to the need for improved public awareness, education and increased research, to help with advancements in the field and improved outcomes for women and girls with polycystic ovary syndrome.

We ask for your support of this resolution. If we can provide any assistance in this effort, please contact Sasha Ottey, Executive Director of PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association at info@pcoschallenge.org or (404) 855-7244, or Susannah Savage in Senator Elizabeth Warren’s office at susannah_savage@warren.senate.gov or (202) 224-4543.

Sincerely,
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Suicidology
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Electrology Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Urogynecologic Society
Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
A Torah Infertility Medium of Exchange (ATIME)
The American Liver Foundation
American Medical Women’s Association
American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Black Women’s Health Imperative
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Dermatology Nurses’ Association
Endocrine Society
Hormone Health Network
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
Jewish Diabetes Association
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health
National Stroke Association
North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
March of Dimes
Obesity Action Coalition
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association
Pediatric Endocrine Society
Postpartum Health Alliance
Preeclampsia Foundation
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
Society for Health Psychology
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Pediatric Dermatology
Society for Women’s Health Research
Society of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education
Tinina Q. Cade Foundation
The White Dress Project