



Alliance for Women's
Health & Prevention

Wednesday, November 27th, 2024

United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC
20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Vice Chairwoman Collins, and Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations,

As an organization focused on women's preventive health, **the Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention (AWHP) is committed to advancing policies and initiatives that support access to affordable, equitable healthcare for all women and girls.** As such, AWHP is committed to supporting the efforts of the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), which plays a critical role in passing screening recommendations for preventive health services. In turn, these recommendations serve as the groundwork for what health insurance covers without cost-sharing for patients — the services that are therefore widely accessible and affordable.

Of the 53 current USPSTF screening recommendations with A or B rating (which have zero patient co-pay), 26 include the word "woman" or pertain specifically to women's health. USPSTF recommendations are directly correlated with broad access to healthcare services that can prevent dozens of complications and diseases for women and girls.

As such, AWHP respectfully urges the Committee on Appropriations to consider supporting modest additional funding for the USPSTF in the fiscal year (FY) 2025 in the amount of \$5.7 million, bringing the total funding to \$23.7 million. This funding would support additional annual comprehensive evidence reviews (especially as these become more sizable and complex, and therefore more costly), support the review of revised methods of evidence surveillance and early updates to recommendations, and support direct patient engagement efforts. In short, modest additional funding would provide USPSTF with the resources and ability to update crucial recommendations as research continues to advance exciting innovations and as more pathways to care become available.

The USPSTF ultimately unlocks broad and equitable patient access to preventive screenings, which are key in reducing healthcare costs down the line by preventing diseases before they even occur. AWHP thanks you for your commitment to women's health, and respectfully urges your support for this investment that will support the preventive health of women and girls nationwide.

Sincerely,

Millicent Gorham
CEO, Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention