Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

February 4, 2016

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. National Institute of Health 9000 Rockville Pike Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Collins,

We write in support of the application submitted by Women and Infants Hospital of Rhode Island for funding through the Centers for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant program to support a COBRE for Reproductive Health.

This funding will allow Women and Infants Hospital to build on its previous investments to foster interdisciplinary research in women's reproductive health and diversify the regional research infrastructure in this field. Women and Infants Hospital seeks to integrate the research of investigators who have primary appointments in pediatrics, obstetrics, and gynecology and establish an interdisciplinary collaborative research environment to address a large number of women's health conditions.

We support Women and Infants Hospital's application and commitment to advancing interdisciplinary research in women's reproductive health. We respectfully ask you give this proposal due and thorough consideration within all applicable rules and regulations. If we can be of assistance to you in this matter, please feel free to call our offices. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

ack Reed

Inited States Senator

James R. Langevin

Member of Congress

Sheldon Whitehouse

United States Senator

David N. Cicilline

Member of Congress