



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
April 10, 2007

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

Charley Wells
Director, OEODM
NOAA
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-6233

Dear Mr. Wells & Friends:

Greetings to the employees and guests of the NOAA's Women's Training Conference themed "Generations of Women Moving History Forward". I place high value on NOAA's recognition and celebration of Women's History Month and I am proud to be a part of this outstanding conference.

For my part, I will be introducing the *Women's Health Office Act*, which would make women's health offices in major federal agencies permanent. This is a follow-up on the work I did with Senator Olympia Snowe which created the Office of Research on Women's Health at NIH in 1990. But I want to do more than protect the status quo.

Doctors, scientists and the American public know that women have very specific health care needs. Despite this, men's health needs have set the standard for our health care system and research agenda. We need to keep moving forward on women's health issues and provide women's health offices a clear, consistent framework to assure that men and women get equal benefit from federal investments in medical research and health care.

The *Women's Health Office Act* also increases coordination between and sets standards for the women's health offices at CDC, FDA, HRSA, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. These offices make sure women are included in clinical drug trials, reach out to low-income and minority women to make sure they are getting vaccines and cancer screenings, and work with health care providers to put research on women's health into practice.

Friends, individually, we can make a difference, but together, we can make change. Thank you for all you do every day to make tomorrow better for our daughters

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara A. Mikulski".

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator