



Coalition to Protect Research



The Coalition to Protect Research (CPR) requests your support in upholding the integrity of the scientific merit review process and asks that you oppose legislative amendments or language that seek to restrict funding for peer-reviewed research.

- The scientific peer review process is the gold standard for determining the quality and relevance of grant proposals. Outside scientists from many of our nation's most prestigious universities with expertise in their fields of research make independent and objective evaluations of each proposal submitted to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Advisory councils with public representation also approve studies before they are funded by the NIH.
- Biomedical and behavioral research across the federal government has led to important advances in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of many public health challenges, including heart disease, cancer, obesity, and sexually transmitted diseases. Years of basic research were necessary before clinical applications are ready.
- Sexual health issues impact on the lives of millions of Americans. Difficulties in sexual arousal are connected to infertility, heart disease, diabetes, and depression. High-risk sexual behaviors exacerbate the public health challenges of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- Congress has an oversight responsibility to ensure that proper policies and procedures are in place to determine the allocation of scarce federal research funds. By protecting the scientific peer review system, Congress ensures that only high quality research will be funded with public dollars.
- The 2001 *Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Sexual Health and Responsible Sexual Behavior* recognized that sexual health is a public health issue. The report explicitly calls for additional federal investments in basic research in human sexual development, sexual health, reproductive health, as well as social and behavioral research on risk and protective factors for sexual health.

The Coalition to Protect Research is a coalition of organizations committed to promoting public health through research. Our organizations represent scientists, physicians, health care providers, and patients that support federal investments in basic biomedical and behavioral research in human sexual development, sexual health, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. Sexual health and behavior research is needed to provide a scientific foundation for sound public health prevention and intervention programs.

If you have any questions, please contact CPR's Co-Chairs, Angela Sharpe of the Consortium of Social Science Associations at alsharpe@coossa.org or (202) 842-3525 or Karen Studwell of the American Psychological Association at kstudwell@apa.org or (202) 336-5585.