

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 560

Recognizing the significance of endometriosis as an unmet chronic disease for women and designating March 2022 as “Endometriosis Awareness Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 29, 2022

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the significance of endometriosis as an unmet chronic disease for women and designating March 2022 as “Endometriosis Awareness Month”.

Whereas more than 6,500,000 women in the United States are living with endometriosis;

Whereas endometriosis is a painful and debilitating chronic disease affecting—

- (1) approximately 190,000,000 women throughout the world;
- (2) an estimated 1 in 10 women of reproductive age in the United States; and
- (3) primarily women in their 30s and 40s, but can affect any woman who menstruates;

Whereas the cause of endometriosis is not known, but risk factors include—

- (1) having a mother, sister, or daughter with endometriosis;
- (2) menstrual cycles that started at an early age;
- (3) menstrual cycles that are short; and
- (4) periods that are heavy and last more than 7 days;

Whereas endometriosis occurs when tissue similar to that normally found in the uterus begins to grow outside the uterus;

Whereas the only way currently available to be certain of an endometriosis diagnosis is to have a surgical procedure known as a laparoscopy;

Whereas the primary symptoms of endometriosis include pain and infertility, and many women with endometriosis live with debilitating, chronic pain;

Whereas symptoms of anxiety and depression are common among women with the endometriosis, with reported rates as high as 75 to 90 percent;

Whereas, although endometriosis is one of the most common gynecological disorders in the United States, there is a lack of awareness and prioritization of endometriosis as an important health issue for women;

Whereas women can suffer for up to 10 years before being properly diagnosed;

Whereas approximately 75 percent of women with endometriosis experience a misdiagnosis;

Whereas endometriosis is 1 of the 3 main causes of female infertility, and between 30 and 50 percent of women with endometriosis experience infertility;

Whereas health care providers must focus on managing the symptoms of endometriosis, which may include in vitro fertilization (IVF), low-dose oral contraceptives, intra-uterine devices (IUDs), painkillers, including nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonist therapy;

Whereas endometriosis is associated with increased health care costs and poses a substantial burden to patients in the health care system;

Whereas, in the United States, the estimated average direct health care cost associated with endometriosis per patient is more than \$13,000 per year;

Whereas 40 percent of women with endometriosis report impaired career growth due to endometriosis, and approximately 50 percent of women with endometriosis experience a decreased ability to work;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the average number of “bed days” for patients with endometriosis was 18 days per year;

Whereas women with endometriosis can lose 11 hours per workweek through lost productivity;

Whereas the physical and psychological impact of endometriosis affects all domains of life, including social life, relationships, and work;

Whereas medical societies and patient groups have expressed the need for greater public attention and updated resources targeted to public education about this unmet health need for women;

Whereas there is a need for more research and updated guidelines to treat endometriosis;

Whereas there is an ongoing need for additional clinical research and treatment options to manage this debilitating disease; and

Whereas there is no known cure for endometriosis: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates March 2022 as “Endometriosis
3 Awareness Month”;

4 (2) recognizes the importance of endometriosis
5 as a health issue for women that requires far greater
6 attention, public awareness, and education about the
7 disease;

8 (3) encourages the Secretary of Health and
9 Human Services, the Secretary of Defense, and the
10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs—

11 (A) to provide information to women, pa-
12 tients, and health care providers with respect to
13 endometriosis, including available screening
14 tools and treatment options, with a goal of im-
15 proving the quality of life and health outcomes
16 of women affected by endometriosis;

17 (B) to conduct additional research on
18 endometriosis and possible clinical options; and

19 (C) to update information, tools, and stud-
20 ies currently available with respect to helping
21 women live with endometriosis; and

1 (4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of
2 the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolu-
3 tion to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

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