

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5858

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for activities to increase the awareness and knowledge of health care providers and women with respect to ovarian, endometrial, and cervical cancer, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for activities to increase the awareness and knowledge of health care providers and women with respect to ovarian, endometrial, and cervical cancer, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ovarian, Cervical, and
5 Endometrial Cancer Awareness Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Ovarian cervical cancers are among the
2 most destructive gynecological forms of cancer.

3 (2) Ovarian cancer causes more deaths than
4 any other cancer of the female reproductive system.

5 (3) Currently there is no effective way to screen
6 for ovarian or endometrial cancer.

7 (4) The main method used to screen for cervical
8 cancer is the Pap test which does not identify other
9 gynecologic cancers.

10 (5) Most women who develop invasive cervical
11 cancer have not had regular cervical cancer screen-
12 ing.

13 (6) Black women are more likely to die from
14 endometrial cancer. Compared to White women,
15 Black patients have an 80-percent higher mortality
16 rate.

17 (7) In 2018, Hispanic women had the highest
18 endometrial cancer rate among young reproductive-
19 age women ages 35 to 39, a rate 50 percent higher
20 than that of White women.

21 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

22 The purposes of this Act are the following:

23 (1) Raising awareness about ovarian,
24 endometrial, and cervical cancers.

1 (2) Raising awareness about the importance of
 2 knowing one’s hereditary risk of developing cancer,
 3 including the understanding of family history and
 4 the role of genetic testing and counseling.

5 (3) Raising awareness about the importance of
 6 screening for cervical cancer.

7 (4) Promotion of the potential value of risk-re-
 8 ducing interventions for ovarian, endometrial, and
 9 cervical cancer.

10 (5) Ensuring that special emphasis is given to
 11 ovarian, cervical, and endometrial cancer under the
 12 public awareness campaign carried out by the Sec-
 13 retary of Health and Human Services under section
 14 317P(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
 15 247b–17(d); commonly referred to as “Johanna’s
 16 Law”).

17 **SEC. 4. INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF OVARIAN,**
 18 **CERVICAL, AND ENDOMETRIAL CANCER.**

19 Section 317P(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42
 20 U.S.C. 247b–17(d); commonly referred to as “Johanna’s
 21 Law”) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “with re-
 23 spect to gynecologic cancers” and inserting “with re-
 24 spect to ovarian, cervical, and endometrial
 25 gynecologic cancers”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 “(D) DISADVANTAGED WOMEN.—Activities
4 under the national campaign under subpara-
5 graph (A) shall include public service announce-
6 ments under subparagraph (C) targeted to dis-
7 advantaged women.”.

8 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

9 It is the sense of the Congress that funding by the
10 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of gynecologic
11 cancer education and awareness efforts should reflect the
12 fact that ovarian, cervical, and endometrial cancers are the
13 most deadly of the gynecologic cancers.

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