

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 317

Recognizing the seriousness of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and expressing support for the designation of September 2019 as “PCOS Awareness Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the seriousness of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and expressing support for the designation of September 2019 as “PCOS Awareness Month”.

Whereas polycystic ovary syndrome (in this preamble referred to as “PCOS”) is a common health problem among women and girls involving a hormonal imbalance;

Whereas there is no universal definition of PCOS, but researchers estimate that between 5,000,000 and 10,000,000 women in the United States are affected by the condition;

Whereas, according to a 2004 study, the annual burden of PCOS in the United States is an estimated

\$4,360,000,000, and this figure pertains to only the reproductive years of women and does not consider the cost of other comorbidities, including obstetrical complications, or the cost of metabolic morbidities in post-menopause or adolescence;

Whereas PCOS can affect girls at the onset of puberty and throughout the remainder of their lives;

Whereas the symptoms of PCOS include infertility, irregular or absent menstrual periods, acne, weight gain, thinning of scalp hair, excessive facial and body hair growth, numerous small ovarian cysts, pelvic pain, and mental health problems;

Whereas women with PCOS have higher rates of psychosocial disorders, including depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and eating disorders, and are at greater risk for suicide;

Whereas adolescents with PCOS often are not diagnosed, and many have metabolic dysfunction and insulin resistance, which can lead to type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obstructive sleep apnea, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, and endometrial cancer at a young adult age;

Whereas PCOS is the most common cause of female infertility;

Whereas PCOS in pregnancy is associated with increased risk of gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, pregnancy-induced hypertension, preterm delivery, cesarean delivery, miscarriage, and fetal and infant death;

Whereas women with PCOS are at increased risk of developing high blood pressure, high cholesterol, stroke, and heart disease (the leading cause of death among women);

Whereas women with PCOS have a more than 50 percent chance of developing type 2 diabetes or prediabetes before the age of 40;

Whereas women with PCOS may be at a higher risk for breast cancer and ovarian cancer, and their risk for developing endometrial cancer is 3 times higher than women who do not have PCOS;

Whereas research has found genetic evidence of a causal link between depression and PCOS;

Whereas research has indicated PCOS shares a genetic architecture with metabolic traits, as evidenced by genetic correlations between PCOS and obesity, fasting insulin, type 2 diabetes, lipid levels, and coronary artery disease;

Whereas adolescents with PCOS are at markedly increased risk for type 2 diabetes, fatty liver disease, and heart disease;

Whereas PCOS negatively alters metabolic function independent of, but exacerbated by, an increased body mass index (BMI);

Whereas an estimated 50 percent of women with PCOS are undiagnosed, and many remain undiagnosed until they experience fertility difficulties or develop type 2 diabetes or other cardiometabolic disorders;

Whereas the cause of PCOS is unknown, but researchers have found strong links to a genetic predisposition and significant insulin resistance, which affects up to 70 percent of women with PCOS; and

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

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) recognizes polycystic ovary syndrome (in
2 this resolution referred to as “PCOS”) as a serious
3 disorder that impacts many aspects of health, in-
4 cluding cardiometabolic, reproductive, and mental
5 health, and quality of life;

6 (2) expresses support for the designation of
7 September 2019 as “PCOS Awareness Month”;

8 (3) supports the goals and ideals of PCOS
9 Awareness Month, which are—

10 (A) to increase awareness of, and edu-
11 cation about, PCOS and its connection to
12 comorbidities, such as type 2 diabetes,
13 endometrial cancer, cardiovascular disease, non-
14 alcoholic fatty liver disease, and mental health
15 disorders, among the general public, women,
16 girls, and health care professionals;

17 (B) to improve diagnosis and treatment of
18 PCOS;

19 (C) to disseminate information on diag-
20 nosis, treatment, and management of PCOS,
21 including prevention of comorbidities such as
22 type 2 diabetes, endometrial cancer, cardio-
23 vascular disease, nonalcoholic fatty liver dis-
24 ease, and eating disorders; and

1 (D) to improve quality of life and outcomes
2 for women and girls with PCOS;

3 (4) recognizes the need for further research,
4 improved treatment and care options, and a cure for
5 PCOS;

6 (5) acknowledges the struggles affecting all
7 women and girls afflicted with PCOS in the United
8 States;

9 (6) urges medical researchers and health care
10 professionals to advance their understanding of
11 PCOS to improve research, diagnosis, and treatment
12 of PCOS for women and girls; and

13 (7) encourages States, territories, and localities
14 to support the goals and ideals of PCOS Awareness
15 Month.

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