



Advancing Menopause Care and Mid-Life Women's Health Act

75 million women are in perimenopause, menopause, or post-menopause right now in the United States—with 6,000 more women reaching menopause each day. But despite the fact that half the U.S. population will eventually experience menopause, menopause research has long been underinvested in and overlooked. To date, very few federal research, awareness, education, and outreach programs specifically focus on menopause and mid-life women's health issues. To date, there is a dearth of federally funded clinical trials on menopause and menopausal hormone therapy and very little menopause education for doctors—only 30 percent of U.S. residency programs offer a formal menopause curriculum according to a recent survey, and 80 percent of OB/GYN residents admit to being ill-prepared to discuss menopause.

The bipartisan *Advancing Menopause Care and Mid-Life Women's Health Act* would strengthen and expand federal research on menopause, awareness and education efforts, health care workforce training, and public health promotion and prevention to better address menopause and mid-life women's health issues.

Specifically, the legislation would:

- **Expand federal research on menopause and mid-life women's health:**
 - o Authorize additional funding over five fiscal years for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to award grants to support biomedical, public health, clinical, and translational research and innovation related to menopause and mid-life women's health.
 - o Establish new Research, Condition, and Disease Categorization (RCDC) categories for chronic or debilitating conditions among women related to menopause and mid-life women's health.
 - o Strengthen coordination within the NIH and across the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expand federal research into menopause and mid-life women's health and prevent adverse health outcomes among women experiencing menopause and postmenopausal syndrome.
 - o Support translational research activities to speed the translation of federal research to support health care delivery of perimenopause and menopause care and related women's health services.
 - o Require HHS to expand public health research, health care quality research, data collection and reporting, and occupational health research related to menopause and mid-life women's health.
- **Support public health promotion activities** to address chronic conditions affecting mid-life women's health, strengthen early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of menopausal symptoms; improve health care delivery; and support the development of recommendations and best practices to expand access to mental and behavioral health care services for women experiencing perimenopause or menopausal symptoms. Authorized at \$10 million per year over five fiscal years.

- **Establish a national public health awareness, education, and outreach program** on menopause and mid-life women’s health. Authorized at \$10 million per year over five fiscal years.
- **Improve professional training resources for health care providers** on menopause and mid-life women’s health through a new grant program. Authorized at \$10 million per year over five fiscal years.
- **Direct the designation of Centers of Excellence in Menopause and Mid-Life Women’s Health**, and authorize grants to support the improvement of professional training resources for health care providers on menopause and mid-life women’s health.
- **Require HHS to report to Congress on federal research activities related to menopause** and midlife women’s health, related barriers to care for patients in rural and underserved areas; barriers to training for health care providers, and recommendations to expand access to care and increase public awareness.
- **Support coordination between HHS and other federal departments and agencies**—including the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense—related to menopausal symptoms, mid-life women’s health, again, and public health promotion activities.