

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2717

To direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain steps regarding research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women’s health, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2025

Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself and Mrs. BICE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain steps regarding research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women’s health, 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 “Servicewomen and Vet-
5 erans Menopause Research Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EVALUATION OF CERTAIN RESEARCH RELATED TO**
2 **MENOPAUSE, PERIMENOPAUSE, OR MID-LIFE**
3 **WOMEN'S HEALTH.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in co-
5 ordination with Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall evalu-
6 ate—

7 (1) the results of completed research related to
8 menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women's
9 health among women who are members of the
10 Armed Forces or veterans;

11 (2) the status of such research that is ongoing;

12 (3) any gaps in knowledge and research on—

13 (A) treatments, including hormone and
14 non-hormone treatments, for menopause-related
15 symptoms;

16 (B) the safety and effectiveness of treat-
17 ments for menopause-related symptoms;

18 (C) the relation of service in the Armed
19 Forces to perimenopause and menopause and
20 the impact of such service on perimenopause
21 and menopause;

22 (D) the effect of combat roles on symp-
23 toms relating to perimenopause and menopause,
24 including exposure to burn pits, toxic chemicals,
25 and PFAS; and

1 (E) the impact of perimenopause and
2 menopause on the mental health of women who
3 are members of the Armed Forces or veterans;

4 (4) the availability of and uptake of professional
5 training resources for covered providers relating to
6 mid-life women's health with respect to the care,
7 treatment, and management of perimenopause and
8 menopausal symptoms, and related support services;
9 and

10 (5) the availability of and uptake of treatments
11 for women who are members of the Armed Forces
12 or veterans who are experiencing perimenopause or
13 menopause.

14 (b) REPORT; STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 180
15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
17 shall each submit to Congress a report containing—

18 (1) the findings of the evaluation conducted
19 under subsection (a);

20 (2) recommendations for improving professional
21 training resources described in subsection (a)(4) for
22 covered providers; and

23 (3) a strategic plan that—

24 (A) resolves the gaps in knowledge and re-
25 search identified in the report; and

1 (B) identifies topics in need of further re-
2 search relating to potential treatments for
3 menopause-related symptoms of women who are
4 members of the Armed Forces or veterans.

5 (c) NONDUPLICATION AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF
6 EFFORTS.—In carrying out activities under this section,
7 the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans
8 Affairs shall ensure that such activities supplement, and
9 minimize the duplication of, existing efforts of the Sec-
10 retary of Health and Human Services to share information
11 regarding matters described in subsection (a).

12 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) The term “covered provider” means a
14 health care provider who is an employee of the De-
15 partment of Defense or the Department of Veterans
16 Affairs.

17 (2) The term “menopause”—

18 (A) means the stage of a woman’s life
19 when menstruation stops permanently and she
20 can no longer get pregnant; and

21 (B) is not a disease state, but a normal
22 part of aging for women.

23 (3) The term “mid-life” means a life stage for
24 a woman that—

1 (A) coincides with perimenopause, which
2 may be physical or emotional;

3 (B) encompasses the late reproductive age,
4 which can begin at approximately 35 years of
5 age, to late postmenopausal stages, which can
6 extend to approximately 65 years of age, of re-
7 productive aging; and

8 (C) often marks the onset of many chronic
9 diseases.

10 (4) The term “perimenopause”—

11 (A) mean the time when levels of the hor-
12 mone estrogen fall unevenly in a woman’s body;
13 and

14 (B) is also called the menopausal transi-
15 tion.

16 (5) The term “PFAS” means perfluoroalkyl
17 and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

18 (6) The term “postmenopausal” means a pe-
19 riod—

20 (A) that begins after a woman has not
21 menstruated for 12 months and lasts thereafter
22 for the rest of the woman’s life; and

23 (B) during which a woman is at increased
24 risk for osteoporosis and heart disease.

1 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ADDITIONAL RESEARCH**
2 **RELATED TO MENOPAUSE, PERIMENOPAUSE,**
3 **OR MID-LIFE WOMEN'S HEALTH.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of De-
5 fense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should each
6 conduct research related to menopause, perimenopause, or
7 mid-life health regarding women who are members of the
8 Armed Forces or veterans.

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