

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 643

Recognizing women’s cardiovascular health as a critical health care priority that affects every State and contributes to increased health care costs, and promoting the necessity of increased awareness of and education on the symptoms for heart disease among women, gender-specific cardiovascular disease research, and policy action to alleviate the risks of heart disease among women.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 18, 2019

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER (for herself and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Recognizing women’s cardiovascular health as a critical health care priority that affects every State and contributes to increased health care costs, and promoting the necessity of increased awareness of and education on the symptoms for heart disease among women, gender-specific cardiovascular disease research, and policy action to alleviate the risks of heart disease among women.

Whereas heart disease is the number one killer of women in the United States;

Whereas heart disease accounts for the deaths of 400,000 women each year or 1,080 each day;

Whereas one in three women die of heart disease or stroke;

Whereas the symptoms of heart disease and heart attack among women are different from those among men;

Whereas the maternal mortality rate in the United States is rising with more than 700 women dying from pregnancy-related conditions each year, and cardiac disease and stroke, the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths in the United States, is responsible for approximately 34 percent of these losses;

Whereas unrecognized symptoms and inadequate treatment of cardiovascular disease among women contribute to the increasing costs to the United States health care system, which, if left unaddressed, are projected to surpass \$1 trillion by 2035;

Whereas heart attack symptoms among women are not typically recognized and can be as subtle as fatigue, jaw pain, shortness of breath, backache, and indigestion;

Whereas half of all women experiencing heart attacks display none of the typically recognized male symptoms;

Whereas 64 percent of women who die of coronary heart disease show no prior typically recognized symptoms;

Whereas women are 50 percent more likely to receive an incorrect diagnosis following a heart attack;

Whereas despite gender differences in physiology and the manifestation of cardiovascular disease, women comprise only 34 percent of participants in cardiovascular disease studies that enroll both men and women; and

Whereas even when considering all cardiovascular disease-related studies, including single-sex studies, women still

comprise only 41 percent of participants: Now, therefore,
be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the vital importance of decreas-
3 ing cardiovascular disease among women;

4 (2) promotes the necessity of raising awareness
5 of the preventable ubiquity of cardiovascular mor-
6 tality among women, and urges a comprehensive
7 public awareness initiative that establishes best prac-
8 tices for identifying and treating cardiovascular inci-
9 dents in women, specifically;

10 (3) supports efforts to educate women, men, pa-
11 tients, and physicians about the critical differences
12 of cardiovascular disease symptoms between women
13 and men;

14 (4) supports the promotion of gender-specific
15 cardiovascular health research, prevention, and
16 treatment, because—

17 (A) there is a material difference in the
18 way women present with cardiovascular or
19 heart attack symptoms; and

20 (B) gender-specific cardiovascular research
21 is essential to driving successful positive out-
22 comes in the reduction of mortality rates;

23 (5) affirms the connection between cardio-
24 vascular disease and preeclampsia in new mothers;

1 (6) acknowledges that the costs to the health
2 care system of unrecognized symptoms in the treat-
3 ment of women can be substantially reduced with
4 appropriate public policy; and

5 (7) supports the development of economic im-
6 pact data to ascertain the health care system costs
7 to be saved by decreasing the incidents of death due
8 to unrecognized symptoms of heart attack in women.

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