

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 88

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

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER (for herself, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOST, Mr. POSEY, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. ADAMS) 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 five 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 36 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 38 percent of participants: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the vital importance of decreasing cardiovascular disease among women;

3 (2) promotes the necessity of raising awareness of the preventable ubiquity of cardiovascular mortality among women, and urges a comprehensive public awareness initiative that establishes best practices for identifying and treating cardiovascular incidents in women, specifically;

4 (3) supports efforts to educate women, men, patients, and physicians about the critical differences of cardiovascular disease symptoms between women and men;

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

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

7 (B) gender-specific cardiovascular research is essential to driving successful positive outcomes in the reduction of mortality rates;

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

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

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

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