

## BACKGROUND

More than 1 in 10 reproductive-age women in the United States are living with endometriosis, which occurs when tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus.<sup>1</sup> According to the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the most common symptoms of endometriosis are pain and infertility.<sup>2</sup> Other common symptoms include:

- Painful or even debilitating menstrual cramps, which may get worse over time;
- Pain during or after sex;
- Pain in the intestine or lower abdomen;
- Painful bowel movements or painful urination during menstrual periods;
- Heavy menstrual periods;
- Premenstrual spotting or bleeding between periods; and
- Problems getting pregnant.

Despite the significant impact of endometriosis on the lives of women who are affected by it, the normalization of women's pain and the stigmatization of menstrual issues have resulted in a lack of scientific innovation and public awareness for the condition.<sup>3</sup>

The **Endometriosis CARE Act** will finally fund the investments that are needed to advance endometriosis research, develop and expand access to treatments, and promote public awareness.

## SUMMARY

The **Endometriosis CARE Act** would:

- Invest \$30 million per year in **endometriosis research** through the National Institutes of Health;
- Identify **barriers to accessing treatments for endometriosis symptoms**, such health care coverage, transportation, and health care professional shortages.
- Establish a national campaign to promote **public awareness** about endometriosis;
- Facilitate the dissemination of information about **evidence-based endometriosis care** to health care professionals and health systems; and
- Commission a **national study on disparities in endometriosis prevalence, detection, treatments, and outcomes** by race, ethnicity, geography, and insurance status.

## CONTACT

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health: Endometriosis. <https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/endometriosis>. Accessed April 18, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development: What are the symptoms of endometriosis? <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/endometri/conditioninfo/symptoms>. Accessed April 18, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Society for Women's Health Research: Endometriosis and Fibroids Network. <https://swhr.org/science/networks/endometriosis-and-fibroids/>. Accessed April 18, 2022.