

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.143

Senator Anthony offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize October 2024 as Uterine Fibroids
2 Awareness Month.

3 Whereas, Uterine fibroids, also known as leiomyomas or myomas,
4 are non-cancerous growths that form in or around the uterus or
5 pelvic cavity that can lead to significant pelvic pain,
6 reproductive dysfunction, abnormal uterine bleeding, miscarriages,
7 and infertility; and

8 Whereas, Uterine fibroids can vary in number, size, and
9 severity depending on the location and will sometimes lead to the
10 distortion of the inside and outside of the uterus, or in some
11 cases, can cause extreme pain when a fibroid outgrows its blood
12 supply and starts to die, ultimately leading to more serious health

1 complications; and

2 Whereas, The pain, discomfort, stress, and other physical and
3 emotional symptoms of living with fibroids may interfere with a
4 woman's quality of life, affecting their personal and professional
5 life, as well as their overall health and well-being; and

6 Whereas, Uterine fibroids are one of the most common medical
7 conditions among women, affecting an estimated 26 million women in
8 the United States during their reproductive years, with the
9 likelihood of developing the condition increasing with age; and

10 Whereas, Despite the prevalence of uterine fibroids,
11 statistics on this condition are often underestimated, as many
12 women remain undiagnosed or do not seek medical care for their
13 symptoms. This is due to limited knowledge regarding fibroids and
14 normal menstruation that may lead to a distorted view of what is
15 normal with regard to uterine bleeding; and

16 Whereas, Uterine fibroids disproportionately impact women of
17 color, as Black women are diagnosed with fibroids roughly three
18 times as frequently as Caucasian women, with women of color being
19 more prone to develop the condition earlier in life and also tend
20 to experience larger and more numerous fibroids that cause more
21 severe symptoms; and

22 Whereas, The diagnosis of fibroids starts with detection
23 during a routine pelvic exam, but can lead to more complex testing,
24 including a pelvic ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI),
25 hysterosalpingography, or a hysteroscopy; and

26 Whereas, A woman's fertility can be affected by uterine
27 fibroids in a variety of ways, including the possibility of the
28 fibroids growing and blocking the uterus or fallopian tubes, making
29 it harder to become pregnant. Other negative impacts include

1 miscarriage, abnormal attachment of the placenta, increased
2 likelihood of delivery by cesarean section, and postpartum
3 hemorrhage; and

4 Whereas, Treatments for uterine fibroids range from medicinal
5 to surgical approaches, depending on the severity of the case,
6 symptoms, location and size of the fibroids, age, medical history,
7 and a woman's health goals. Medicinal approaches include anti-
8 inflammatory painkillers and hormonal treatments like oral
9 contraceptive pills or progesterone-containing agents. Surgical
10 approaches include a myomectomy, a procedure during which the
11 fibroids are removed but the uterus stays intact to preserve a
12 women's fertility; and

13 Whereas, A hysterectomy, or removal of the entire uterus, is
14 among the most common surgical treatments for uterine fibroids.
15 Fibroids are the number one reason for hysterectomies in the United
16 States, which are major surgeries that can be more extensive
17 depending on the size of the uterine fibroids; and

18 Whereas, Uterine fibroids were estimated to cost the United
19 States \$5.9 to \$34.4 billion annually with an estimated annual lost
20 work cost of \$1.55 to \$17.2 billion annually, due to the
21 absenteeism and short-term disability among women ages 25-54; and

22 Whereas, Public awareness and education about uterine fibroids
23 is critical to increase knowledge about this condition and improve
24 prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment methods; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
27 body recognize October 2024 as Uterine Fibroids Awareness Month. We
28 recognize the disparities in incidence rates for Black and Hispanic
29 uterine fibroid patients and urge greater research, data

1 collection, treatment, and care options for uterine fibroids.