

# Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6672

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING ENDOMETRIOSIS.

**Vote Date:** 3/3/2023

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/22/2023

**File No.:** 59

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

The Public Health Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The Substitute language focuses on a biorepository program that includes samples from a broad cross-section of groups affected by endometriosis, including under-represented populations. The bill is offered to help raise awareness of the disease, particularly in underserved populations and the treatments available. The improvement in awareness and education will result in better outcomes.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **Manisha Juthani, MD, Commissioner, CT Department of Public Health (DPH)**

Significant levels of additional resources will be required to support this activity and they were not included in the Governor's budget. It has been agreed that the activity specified in the bill will not reside in DPH.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Liz Gustafson, MSW, State Director, Pro Choice CT**

Endometriosis is a disease that has no treatment or cure, as well as being mis-diagnosed many times or missed altogether. As a result of our healthcare system biases, Black and brown women are 50% less likely to be diagnosed and treated. The development of a biorepository that assembles samples from all affected groups and improved education and awareness will improve outcomes for all.

**Danielle Luciano, MD, GYB Surgeon, UCONN Health**

As a surgeon, Dr. Luciano has seen patients who have experienced pain and suffering from endometriosis for up to 7 years prior to their appropriate diagnosis. The negative impact on their quality of life is substantial and infertility risks are heightened. There is no cure. The biorepository will raise awareness of the disease and treatment options and will lead to research that helps with early diagnosis and targeted treatment options.

**Terry Fitzgerald, Manager, Advocacy and Outreach, Hartford YWCA**

The length of diagnosis time is largely the result of lack of awareness among healthcare providers. Additional biases, including racism and sexism, add to the unnecessary delays in diagnosis. The need for research is addressed in this bill through the development of the biorepository, but we also need to focus on training of providers regarding symptoms, diagnosis, care and treatment across all racial lines.

**Others in Support**

Janet Alfano, Executive Director, The Diaper Bank of CT  
Taylor Biniarz, Ellington CT  
Elise Courtois, Jackson Laboratory  
Nicole Sanford, Aspira Women's Health

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Kimberly Sandor, CT Nurses Association**

There are many flaws in this bill that cause significant concern. Nurses do not diagnose and treat endometriosis, yet school nurse training mandated in this bill is focused on diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis. Additional mandatory training, without resources to cover the cost, continue to plague school nurses. While we acknowledge the difficulties associated with diagnosing endometriosis, the mental health needs of our youth far outweigh other issues in school-based clinics at this time.

**Donna Kosiorowski, MS RN, NCSN-E**

In this bill, school nurses are required to take training in endometriosis diagnosis and treatment. Yet, school nurses do not diagnose or treat this disease or any disease. We recognize the need for increased awareness of the specifics of this disease but the focus should be on the providers and not on school nurses. Linking license renewal to endometriosis training creates a never-ending list of single disease legislative requirements.

**Reported by: David Rackliffe, Asst Clerk**

**Date: March 14, 2023**