



931 Monroe Drive  
Suite A-470  
Atlanta, GA 30308

Phone: (404) 855-7244  
Fax: (301) 224-9902  
www.pcoschallenge.org

December 20, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor, and Pensions  
455 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor, and Pensions  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Resolution Recognizing the Seriousness of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations committed to the health and improved quality of life for women and girls with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), we are writing to bring to your attention, and ask for your support of **S.Res.336**, the resolution designating September 2018 as PCOS Awareness Month and recognizing the seriousness of the disorder. This resolution will help to bring critical nationwide attention to PCOS, one of the most common human disorders and the most common endocrine (hormone) disorder in women. PCOS is a genetic, reproductive, hormonal and metabolic disorder that affects an estimated five to 10 million women and girls in the U.S. and more than 10 percent worldwide. PCOS has become one of the most pervasive and underserved public health issues that threatens the mental and physical health, and quality of life of girls, women and their families. The disorder can lead to obesity and the most common causes of death in women including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

One of the most heartbreaking challenges of PCOS is its effect on fertility and family building. PCOS is the most common cause of female infertility. PCOS in pregnancy increases the risk of complications such as gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, miscarriage, and fetal and infant death. Researchers have also found that women with PCOS are twice as likely to be hospitalized than other women, most frequently due to infertility and cardiometabolic issues associated with PCOS.

More than 50 percent of women and girls with PCOS are going undiagnosed, putting them at even greater risk for deadly illnesses which can be prevented or delayed with proper diagnosis, treatment and care. This resolution seeks to call attention to the need for improved public awareness, education and increased research, to help with advancements in the field and improved outcomes for women and girls with polycystic ovary syndrome.

We ask for your support of this resolution. If we can provide any assistance in this effort, please contact Sasha Ottey, Executive Director of PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association at [info@pcoschallenge.org](mailto:info@pcoschallenge.org) or (404) 855-7244, or Susannah Savage in Senator Elizabeth Warren's office at [susannah\\_savage@warren.senate.gov](mailto:susannah_savage@warren.senate.gov) or (202) 224-4543.

Sincerely,  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine

American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association of Suicidology  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Electrology Association  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Urogynecologic Society  
Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
A Torah Infertility Medium of Exchange (ATIME)  
The American Liver Foundation  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Endocrine Society  
Hormone Health Network  
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses  
Jewish Diabetes Association  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association for Rural Mental Health  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Stroke Association  
North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology  
March of Dimes  
Obesity Action Coalition  
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association  
Pediatric Endocrine Society  
Postpartum Health Alliance  
Preeclampsia Foundation  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association  
Society for Health Psychology  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Dermatology  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility  
Society of Pediatric Nurses  
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education  
Tinina Q. Cade Foundation  
The White Dress Project