



Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide

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February 28th, 2026
The Honorable Annette Cleveland, Chair
Washington State Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee
P.O. Box 40466
Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Re: Washington S.R. 8657: Supporting Menopause Education, Treatment, and Awareness

Dear Chair Cleveland and members of the Health & Long Term Care Committee,

Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN) appreciates the intent of Senate Resolution 8657, which aims to increase and improve treatment, education, and awareness of menopause. As a youth-led organization committed to promoting advocacy of patient-centered health policy, we recognize the importance of legislation that addresses gaps in menopausal and midlife education, reducing the stigma surrounding women's health.

For the reasons listed below, we strongly support this bill and wish for it to succeed.

- **Reduces stigma and misinformation:** Menopause has a seriously overlooked and shamed aspect of reproductive health. By formally recognizing its medical significance and the importance of spreading awareness, S.R. 8657 helps normalize conversations midlife health, highlights the longstanding lack of education, research, and tailored medical resources, and formally supports expanding evidence-based tools, treatment options, and public awareness efforts to improve health outcomes.
- **Addresses issue relevant to many:** Each year, approximately 1.3 million women begin menopause, with only 49% of women in perimenopause having spoken to a health care professional. This gap between lived experience and education is why this resolution is so significant and highlights the significant disconnect. By elevating the conversations surrounding menopause, S.R. 8657 helps ensure more individuals get the discussions and care they need. Additionally, the resolution acknowledges the disproportionate impact on women of color, transgender, and nonbinary individuals, as well as the workplace stigma, lost productivity, and broader economic costs associated with unmanaged menopausal symptoms, framing menopause as both a health equity and workforce issue needing to be addressed.

For these reasons, SPAN heavily supports S.R. 8657. We believe this S.R. will help ensure confusion and stigma surrounding menopause are weakened, while also increasing education to break down barriers. As students and young advocates working across the country to advance evidence-based, equitable policy, we are eager to see S.R. 8657 succeed in a way that aligns with both expert consensus and community needs.

Sincerely,

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Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN)



Resources:

Berman, Kira. "After Decades of Misunderstanding, Menopause Is Finally Having Its Moment." *Yale School of Medicine*, 14 Apr. 2025, medicine.yale.edu/news-article/after-decades-of-misunderstanding-menopause-is-finally-having-its-moment/.