

H.R. 2007

The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Uterine Fibroid Research and Education Act of 2021

Bill Information

Introduced: Rep. Clarke (D-NY-11), March 2021

Current co-sponsors: Rep. Kelly,* Rep. Watson Coleman,* Rep. D. Scott,* Rep. Thompson, Rep. Blunt Rochester, Rep. Butterfield, Rep. Clark, Rep. Schrader, Rep. Lee, Rep. Underwood

* *Denotes original cosponsors*

Background

Uterine fibroids, noncancerous growths of the uterus, are one of the most common gynecological conditions nationwide. Approximately 26 million individuals in the U.S. from ages 15 to 50 have fibroids.¹ Symptoms may include severe menstrual bleeding, anemia, fatigue, pain, bladder or bowel dysfunction, impaired fertility, and pregnancy complications and loss. Black women are at increased risk for the disease compared to white women, tend to get fibroids at a younger age, and suffer more severe symptoms. Fibroids are estimated to cost the health care system \$5.9 billion to \$34.4 billion annually.²

Diagnosis and treatment of fibroids is difficult. Symptoms like irregular menstruation are often normalized by patients and providers alike, and many patients spend years without a diagnosis. Treatment is frequently invasive and often negatively affects fertility. There is a great need for improvements in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, but fibroids research remains significantly underfunded, and provider education is variable.³

Bill Purpose

The *Stephanie Tubbs Jones Uterine Fibroid Research and Education Act of 2021* would increase research funding for uterine fibroids, improve awareness and training, and seek to measure cost to government payers. Specifically, the bill would:

- Establish new research funding through NIH, totaling \$150 million over five years;
- Expand a CMS database on chronic conditions to include information on services provided to individuals with fibroids;
- Create a public education program through the CDC; and
- Direct HRSA to develop and disseminate fibroids information to health care providers.

The bill also highlights the need for improved patient and provider education surrounding the heightened risk for fibroids faced by women of color.

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For more information, or to sign on as a cosponsor, please contact Christopher Cox, Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Yvette Clarke at Christopher.Cox@mail.house.gov.

¹ ARHQ (2017). Management of Uterine Fibroids. Accessible from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK537747/>

² Cardozo et al. (2011). The Estimated Annual Cost of Uterine Leiomyomata in the United States. DOI: 10.1016/j.ajog.2011.12.002

³ SWHR (2021). Examining Research Gaps and Barriers to Care for Fibroids. Accessible from: <https://swhr.org/examining-research-gaps-and-barriers-to-care-for-fibroids/>