

WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES ENDOMETRIOSIS TOOLKIT

WASHINGTON, DC - March 15, 2012 - Today Women In Government launches its Endometriosis Awareness and Education Toolkit to provide state legislators with the knowledge and tools they need to enact effective policies to combat this painful, and often debilitating, disease.

In North America alone, more than 8.5 million women suffer with the painful symptoms that endometriosis causes. Diagnosis for endometriosis can take up to a decade, and many women live in pain for years before they or their provider recognize the need for endometriosis treatment. Additionally, many women with endometriosis often have trouble conceiving and struggle with fertility. The estimates for the costs associated with endometriosis have risen from 22 billion in 2002, to possibly as much as 110 billion in the United States alone. Relationships, academics, and careers suffer as women with endometriosis report major losses of productivity due to severe, chronic pain.

Women In Government has created the Endometriosis Awareness and Education Toolkit for state legislators to promote awareness and to facilitate effective policy action. The Toolkit provides information about endometriosis's prevalence, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment in order to deliver the most current knowledge available. It also includes sample legislation from several states, as well as outreach materials, and awareness activities for constituents.

"Endometriosis affects millions of women, is incredibly painful, and often a misunderstood disease," said Marjorie Maginn, President of Women In Government. "The Endometriosis Toolkit provides legislators with the tools they need to understand endometriosis, raise awareness about the disease, and educate the public through sound policy."

The Endometriosis Awareness and Education Toolkit can be accessed at Women In Government's website. Please visit: http://www.womeningovernment.org/policies_publications/policy-issues/endometriosis.

Women In Government Foundation, Inc. is a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization leading the nation with a vision to empower and mobilize all women state legislators to effect sound policy. With over 20 years of experience working with state legislators, Women In Government proudly hosts over 20 educational conferences annually to address the nation's public policy issues. For more information visit: <http://www.womeningovernment.org>.

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