

From: [Kate Zaluski](#)
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Statement in favor of S2863

My name is Kate Zaluski, and I have been a practicing OB/GYN in Rhode Island for over 10 years. It is my honor and privilege to provide gynecology and menopause care. I am here today to support Senate Bill S2863.

In my work at Women and Infants Midlife Care Center, I have seen firsthand the distress that interruption in menopause hormone therapy can cause patients. Untreated symptoms in patients with menopause symptoms can impact sleep, mental health, and workforce participation. Gaps in hormonal care can lead to breakthrough bleeding, which can lead to unnecessary, costly and invasive workups. In addition, gaps in care can lead to increased risk of bone loss.

Patients in the perimenopause age group are running the world--at the height of careers, caring for children, caring for parents, running households. When patients are required to return to the pharmacy every 30 or 90 days, they are at risk of not getting refills on time. There are so many reasons that patients may not be able to get their medications in a timely fashion--transportation issues, childcare problems, mobility issues, as we saw this winter, weather emergencies.

These problems with pharmacy access disproportionately affect patients who live in rural areas, those working multiple jobs, those with limited mobility. No patient should have to go without their menopause hormone therapy due to access issues. Thank you for your attention to this issue to ensure that all Rhode Islanders get the care that they need.

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