



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

**Testimony in Support of 26-S 2890,
AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE - ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Hannah Stern - Director, Public Policy and Government Relations
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
April 9, 2026**

Dear Chair Murray and honorable members of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services:

In my capacity as the Director, Public Policy and Government Relations at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE), I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony **in support of Senate Bill S 2890**. PPSNE provided sexual and reproductive health care to nearly 10,000 Rhode Island patients last year and believes all people should have access to quality, affordable, and compassionate health care as a basic human right — regardless of who you are, where you live, your income, if you have health insurance or your immigration status.

Everyone deserves access to the medication that they rely on, including hormone therapy, which works for them and should not have to struggle to access the medication because of their income, insurance carrier, or life circumstances. For these reasons, we strongly support this legislation which would require health insurance coverage for menopause treatments and address an overlooked – but extremely common – side effect of the natural aging process.

Though half of the population will eventually enter perimenopause and menopause, there are stark financial barriers for patients going through this transition. The treatment that works best is menopausal hormone therapy (MHT). MHT can help with some symptoms of menopause, such as hot flashes, vaginal dryness, or sleep problems and can be given in different forms — pills, patches, vaginal rings, creams, and shots, yet this is not always covered by insurance plans. One study noted that 21% of menopause patients have skipped or delayed their menopause treatment due to financial concerns, and that only

26% of patients have full insurance coverage for their menopause treatments.¹ This leaves many patients vulnerable to escalating costs and unaffordable treatment options which, in turn, impact long-term health and well-being. Everyone deserves affordable and accessible hormone therapy that works for them.

Because of the important nature of this policy, we encourage the committee to additionally extend the coverage benefits that this bill proposes to public insurance coverage. Overall, however, in line with PPSNE's commitment to supporting legislation that expands access to health care options for all people, we strongly support this legislation which addresses the financial access of treatment for a health condition that has been neglected in our policies for far too long.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.



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¹ <https://www.goodrx.com/healthcare-access/research/menopause-survey-affordability?srsltid=AfmBOorPjqwDDJVisjymr1j5X62Ayy--BNSzaLD43iYMccn1aMlVfE73>