

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require a study on women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To require a study on women and lung cancer, and for  
other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Women and Lung Can-  
5 cer Research and Preventive Services Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds as follows:

8           (1) According to the American Cancer Society,  
9       in the United States, approximately 193 women die

1 each day of lung cancer, or about one woman every  
2 7 minutes.

3 (2) Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer  
4 death among women.

5 (3) The American Cancer Society estimates  
6 that 70,500 women will die of lung cancer in 2018.

7 (4) Studies have shown a higher incidence rate  
8 of lung cancer for women who were never smokers  
9 compared to men who were never smokers.

10 (5) According to the 2014 report, “The Health  
11 Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress: A  
12 Report of the Surgeon General, 2014”, the relative  
13 risk of developing lung cancer increased tenfold  
14 among female smokers between 1959 and 2010.

15 (6) According to the American Cancer Society,  
16 approximately 40 percent of lung cancers are adeno-  
17 carcinoma, a subtype of non-small cell lung cancer,  
18 which is the most common type of cancer seen in  
19 non-smokers and is more common in women than in  
20 men.

21 (7) Exposure to radon accounts for approxi-  
22 mately 21,000 deaths from lung cancer each year  
23 and is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smok-  
24 ers.

1           (8) A Government Accountability Office report  
2 published on October 22, 2015, called for the Na-  
3 tional Institutes of Health to do more in evaluating  
4 gender differences in research.

5           (9) Additional research strategies and clinical  
6 trials are necessary to explore the differences in lung  
7 cancer risk factors, incidence, and treatment re-  
8 sponse in women, and to address the disparate im-  
9 pact of lung cancer on women who have never  
10 smoked.

11          (10) Lung cancer screening, which can detect  
12 lung cancer at its earliest, most curable stage, is a  
13 covered service available without cost-sharing for  
14 those at high risk.

15          (11) Published peer-reviewed actuarial studies  
16 indicate that lung cancer screening individuals at  
17 high risk is cost-effective.

18          (12) The National Framework of Excellence in  
19 Lung Cancer Screening and Continuum of Care,  
20 launched in 2012, demonstrated that lung cancer  
21 screening can be safely and effectively carried out in  
22 community hospital settings around the Nation.

23          (13) Information on the impact of lung cancer  
24 on women and the importance of early detection

1       should be incorporated into all relevant public health  
2       awareness campaigns.

3   **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING WOMEN AND**  
4                   **LUNG CANCER.**

5       It is the sense of Congress that—

6           (1) there is a disparate impact of lung cancer  
7       on women and, in particular, on women who have  
8       never smoked;

9           (2) additional research strategies to explore the  
10      differences in women with respect to lung cancer  
11      risk factors, incidence, histology, and response to  
12      treatment are justified and necessary;

13          (3) the implementation of lung cancer preven-  
14      tive services for women should be accelerated; and

15          (4) the public health agencies of the Federal  
16      Government should coordinate public education and  
17      awareness programs on the impact of lung cancer on  
18      women and the importance of early detection.

1 **SEC. 4. STUDY TO EVALUATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDA-**  
2 **TIONS FOR THE ACCELERATION OF RE-**  
3 **SEARCH ON WOMEN AND LUNG CANCER,**  
4 **GREATER ACCESS TO PREVENTIVE SERV-**  
5 **ICES, AND STRATEGIC PUBLIC AWARENESS**  
6 **AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS.**

7 (a) **STUDY.**—The Secretary of Health and Human  
8 Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense  
9 and Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall conduct an inter-  
10 agency study to evaluate the status of, and make rec-  
11 ommendations for increased—

- 12 (1) research on women and lung cancer;  
13 (2) access to lung cancer preventive services;  
14 and  
15 (3) strategic public awareness and education  
16 campaigns on lung cancer.

17 (b) **CONTENT.**—The study and recommendations  
18 under subsection (a) shall include—

- 19 (1) a review and comprehensive report on the  
20 outcomes of previous research, the status of existing  
21 research activities, and knowledge gaps related to  
22 women and lung cancer in all agencies of the Fed-  
23 eral Government;  
24 (2) specific recommendations for a collabo-  
25 rative, interagency, multidisciplinary, and innovative  
26 research program, that would—

1           (A) encourage innovative approaches to  
2           eliminate knowledge gaps in research;

3           (B) evaluate environmental and genomic  
4           factors that may be related to the etiology of  
5           lung cancer in women; and

6           (C) foster advances in imaging technology  
7           to improve risk assessment, diagnosis, treat-  
8           ment, and the simultaneous application of other  
9           preventive services;

10          (3) recommendations for the development of a  
11          national lung cancer screening strategy with suffi-  
12          cient infrastructure and personnel resources to ex-  
13          pand access to such screening, particularly among  
14          underserved populations; and

15          (4) recommendations for the development of a  
16          national public education and awareness campaign  
17          on women and lung cancer and the importance of  
18          early detection of lung cancer.

19          (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
20          of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and  
21          Human Services shall submit to Congress a report on the  
22          study conducted under subsection (a).