



September 28, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services
200 Independence Avenue
SW Washington, D.C. 20201

Mr. Kyle Diamantas
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Acting Commissioner Diamantis:

As members of the Democratic Women's Caucus, we write to express our concern regarding the ongoing disruption in supply of estradiol transdermal patches. Members of Congress, led by Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI), first notified the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) via the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in July.¹ Yet, there have been no meaningful actions taken by the FDA. Over the last two years, women's prescriptions for estrogen patches have risen by 162 percent.² Despite this accelerating demand, the supply of estrogen patches has fallen short. It is essential for the FDA to immediately address this shortage and outline the concrete steps to ensure a stable and reliable supply.

Estradiol patches are used by millions of individuals to manage menopause symptoms and protect long-term health, including bone density. Patients nationwide are reporting significant, ongoing difficulty filling estradiol patch prescriptions their doctors have written for them.³ Interrupting treatment can mean the return of debilitating symptoms for women and real risk to

¹ Dingell, D. (2026, August 6). *Dingell, colleagues press administration to address estrogen patch shortages for menopause treatment*. U.S. House of Representatives. <https://debbiedingell.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=7194>

² CNBC. (2026, June 26). *Estrogen patches are in short supply as women seek menopause support*.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2026/06/26/estrogen-patches-are-in-short-supply-as-women-seek-menopause-support.html>

³ Lazar, K., & Corral, A. (2026, September 3). *Estrogen patch shortage prompts doctors, lawmakers to seek FDA action as women struggle to find treatment*. CBS News. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/estrogen-patch-shortage-fda-declaration-hormone-replacement-therapy/>

their long-term bone and cardiovascular health. Without a dependable supply of estrogen patches, women who have relied on them will face continued and unnecessary suffering.

We understand that the FDA's November 2025 removal of the black box warning on menopausal hormone therapy products contributed to a significant increase in prescriptions at a time when manufacturing capacity was already strained.⁴ However, the resulting surge in demand has outpaced the supply chain's ability to keep pace. We have heard directly from constituents who have been unable to fill their prescriptions and are given no clear timeline on when their medication will be back in stock.

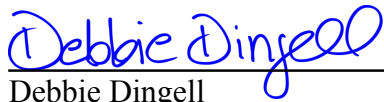
While the FDA has reported they are offering assistance to manufacturers seeking to increase production, we are many months into this disruption and patients continue to report significant, ongoing difficulty accessing this medication with no clear end in sight. Given the scale and duration of this disruption, we request that the FDA provide our offices with the following:

1. A detailed explanation of the specific factors contributing to the ongoing delay in resolving this disruption, including any regulatory, manufacturing or supply chain bottlenecks that continue to prevent supply from meeting patient demand;
2. A current, specific timeline for when supply is expected to stabilize;
3. What interim guidance, if any, the FDA is providing to prescribers and pharmacists to help ensure patients have access to alternative formulations during the disruption;
4. Data on which specific brands and dosages remain most affected; and
5. Information on how the FDA is considering whether additional manufacturers could be utilized to help close the supply gap and whether the agency is providing technical assistance to enable that;
6. Whether or not the FDA is considering adding estradiol transdermal patches to its Drug Shortage Database.

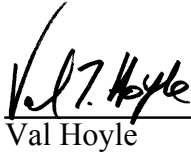
Women's health is often ignored in our public health infrastructure. We call on the FDA to treat this supply disruption, and the women affected by it, with the urgency it deserves, and provide a prompt response outlining the steps the agency is taking to address it.

Sincerely,

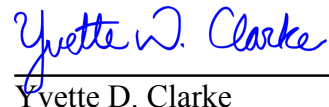
⁴ Roy, M., & Roy, S. (2026, April 9). *Patients scramble to find estrogen patches as shortage worsens after U.S. FDA champions use*. Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/patients-scramble-find-estrogen-patches-shortage-worsens-after-us-fda-champions-2026-04-09/>



Debbie Dingell
Senate Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Co-Chair & Liaison
Reproductive Healthcare Task
Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



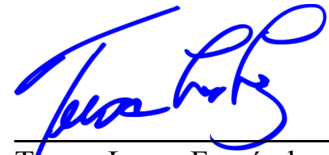
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



JIM Tokuda
Progressive Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Pramila Jayapal
Congressional Asian Pacific
American Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



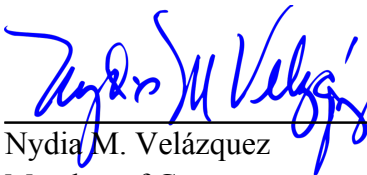
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Congressional Hispanic
Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Julie Johnson
Equality Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



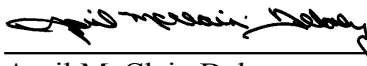
Lateefah Simon
Co-Chair
Caregiving Task Force
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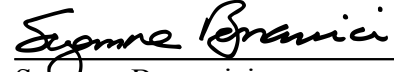
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Co-Chair
Member Services Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



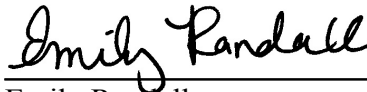
April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



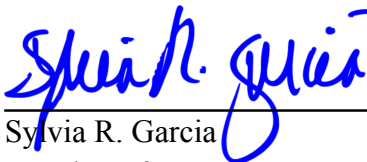
Emily Randall
Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



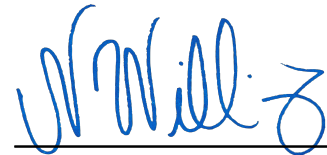
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



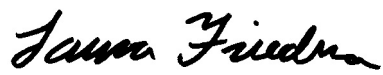
Chrissy Houlahan
Co-Chair
Servicewomen, Women
Veterans, and Military
Families Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Chief Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



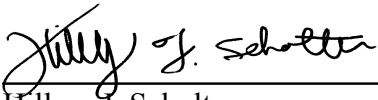
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



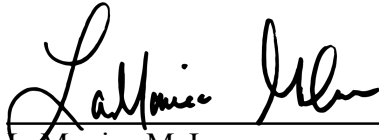
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten

Vice Chair

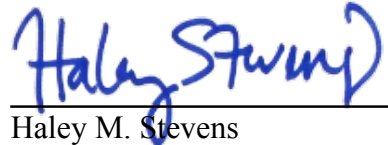
Democratic Women's Caucus



LaMonica McIver

New Member Liaison

Democratic Women's Caucus



Haley M. Stevens

Member of Congress



Lori Trahan

Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter, M.D.

Member of Congress



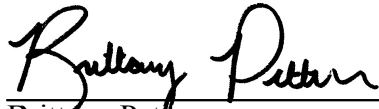
Lizzie Fletcher

Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes

Member of Congress



Brittany Petersen

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Caregiving Task Force

Democratic Women's Caucus



Lois Frankel

Chair Emerita

Democratic Women's Caucus



Sydney Kamlager-Dove

Co-Chair

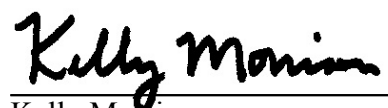
Policy Task Force

Democratic Women's Caucus



Laura A. Gillen

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Co-Chair & Liaison

Reproductive Healthcare Task Force

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Chellie Pingree

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Nanette Diaz Barragán

Member of Congress