

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2028

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administration for Children & Families, to award grants on a competitive basis to public and private entities to provide exclusively education in sexual risk avoidance (meaning avoiding all sexual risk by voluntarily refraining from nonmarital sexual activity).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Mr. HULTGREN (for himself, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, and Mr. BABIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administration for Children & Families, to award grants on a competitive basis to public and private entities to provide exclusively education in sexual risk avoidance (meaning avoiding all sexual risk by voluntarily refraining from nonmarital sexual activity).

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Healthy Relationships
3 Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION.**

5 (a) GRANTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human
6 Services, acting through the Administration for Children
7 & Families (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”),
8 may award grants on a competitive basis to public and
9 private entities for the exclusive purpose of providing
10 qualified sexual risk avoidance (in this section referred to
11 as “SRA”) education to youth and their parents.

12 (b) QUALIFIED SRA EDUCATION.—To receive fund-
13 ing for SRA education under this section, an entity shall
14 demonstrate to the Secretary each of the following:

15 (1) The education—

16 (A) will be evidenced-based, meaning it will
17 have a clear theoretical framework integrating
18 research findings with practical implementation
19 relevant to the SRA field that matches the
20 needs and desired outcomes for the intended
21 audience; and

22 (B) if effectively implemented, will give
23 youth improved life and health outcomes.

24 (2) The unambiguous and primary emphasis
25 and context for each topic covered by the education
26 will be the message to middle and high school stu-

1 dents that avoiding nonmarital sexual activity offers
2 the best opportunity for optimal sexual health.

3 (3) The education will be medically accurate,
4 meaning that information will be referenced to peer
5 reviewed publications by educational, scientific, gov-
6 ernmental, or health organizations.

7 (4) The education will be age-appropriate,
8 meaning it will be appropriate for the general devel-
9 opmental and social maturity of the targeted age
10 group (as opposed to the cognitive ability to under-
11 stand a topic, or the atypical maturation, of a small
12 segment of the targeted population).

13 (5) The education will thoroughly address each
14 of the following:

15 (A) The holistic individual and societal
16 benefits associated with personal responsibility,
17 self-regulation, goal setting, healthy decision-
18 making, and a focus on the future.

19 (B) The research-supported advantage of
20 reserving sexual activity for marriage, in order
21 to improve the future prospects and physical
22 and emotional health of youth, and helping sex-
23 ually active students return to a risk-free sta-
24 tus. In this subparagraph, the terms “sexual
25 activity” and “sexually active” refer to any type

1 of genital contact or sexual stimulation for the
2 purpose of arousal, including sexual intercourse.

3 (C) The increased likelihood of avoiding
4 poverty when youth implement the “success se-
5 quence” by achieving three norms in sequence:
6 complete school, secure a full time job, and wait
7 until at least 21 years of age to marry and have
8 children.

9 (D) The skills needed to resist the harms
10 associated with pornography and the pervasive,
11 sex-saturated culture that portrays teenage sex-
12 ual activity as an expected norm, with few risks
13 or negative consequences.

14 (E) The foundational components of
15 healthy relationships and their impact on the
16 formation of healthy marriages and safe and
17 stable families.

18 (F) How to resist and avoid sexual coer-
19 cion and dating violence, recognizing that even
20 with consent, teen sex remains a youth risk be-
21 havior.

22 (G) How other youth risk behaviors, such
23 as drug and alcohol usage, increase the risk for
24 teen sex.

1 (6) The education will ensure that any informa-
2 tion provided on contraception—

3 (A) is medically accurate and ensures that
4 students understand that contraception offers
5 only physical risk reduction and not risk elimi-
6 nation; and

7 (B) does not include demonstration, sim-
8 ulation, or distribution of contraceptive devices.

9 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under subsection
10 (a), the Secretary shall give priority to applicants pro-
11 posing programs to provide qualified SRA education that
12 will—

13 (1) regularly reinforce the SRA message in both
14 the middle and high school grades; and

15 (2) promote parent-child communication re-
16 garding the benefits of avoiding all sexual risk.

17 (d) APPLICATION.—To seek an application under this
18 section, an entity shall submit an application at such time,
19 in such manner, and containing such assurances as the
20 Secretary may require. At a minimum, the application
21 shall include—

22 (1) assurances satisfactory to the Secretary
23 that each of the conditions listed in subsection (c)
24 will be satisfied;

1 (2) an individualized plan to evaluate the SRA
2 education to be funded through the grant for behav-
3 ioral impact, or to inform best practices in the provi-
4 sion of such SRA education that are based on re-
5 search that—

6 (A) is conducted by independent research-
7 ers who have experience in conducting and pub-
8 lishing research in peer-reviewed outlets; and

9 (B) is not part of a national evaluation
10 that is mandated by, contracted for, or con-
11 ducted by the Department of Health and
12 Human Services; and

13 (3) an agreement to expend not more than 20
14 percent of their overall grant award for such evalua-
15 tion.

16 (e) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide
18 training and technical assistance to grantees under
19 this section.

20 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Any such training and
21 technical assistance shall—

22 (A) emphasize the practical implementa-
23 tion of SRA in all educational messaging to
24 teens;

1 (B) be provided directly to grantees by
2 SRA-credentialed experts;

3 (C) cover methodologies and best practices
4 in SRA for teens; and

5 (D) consistently teach in the context of a
6 public health model that stresses risk avoidance
7 or a return to a risk avoidance status.

8 (3) SETTINGS.—Any such training and tech-
9 nical assistance shall be provided during national
10 and regional conferences, webinars, and one-on-one
11 conversations about funded projects.

12 (4) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS.—In addition
13 to training and technical assistance provided by staff
14 of the Department of Health and Human Services,
15 such training and technical assistance shall be pro-
16 vided by qualified organizations that have—

17 (A) sole focus on the development and ad-
18 vancement of SRA education;

19 (B) expertise in theory-based SRA pro-
20 gram development and implementation;

21 (C) direct experience in developing SRA
22 evaluation instruments; and

23 (D) the ability to offer technical assistance
24 and training on topics relevant to the SRA
25 field.

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section,
3 there is authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000
4 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.
5 Amounts authorized to be appropriated by the pre-
6 ceding sentence shall be derived exclusively from
7 amounts made available for the Teen Pregnancy
8 Prevention program of the Department of Health
9 and Human Services.

10 (2) FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the
11 amount authorized to be appropriated by paragraph
12 (1) for a fiscal year—

13 (A) up to \$1,000,000 are authorized to be
14 used for the creation of a national media cam-
15 paign to increase understanding and apprecia-
16 tion for SRA education;

17 (B) not more than \$1,000,000 are author-
18 ized to be used for Federal administrative costs;
19 and

20 (C) of the amount used by the Secretary
21 for administrative costs, no more than 25 per-
22 cent shall be used for training and technical as-
23 sistance.

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