

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3900

To amend section 510 of the Social Security Act regarding a youth empowerment program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2017

Mr. FLORES (for himself and Mr. HULTGREN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend section 510 of the Social Security Act regarding
a youth empowerment program.

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 “Youth Empowerment
5 Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 510 of the Social Security
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 710) is amended to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 510. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

1 “(1) ALLOTMENTS TO STATES.—For the pur-
2 pose described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall,
3 for each of fiscal years 2018 and 2019, allot to each
4 State which has transmitted an application for the
5 fiscal year under section 505(a) an amount equal to
6 the product of—

7 “(A) the amount appropriated pursuant to
8 subsection (e)(1) for the fiscal year, minus the
9 amount reserved under subsection (e)(2) for the
10 fiscal year; and

11 “(B) the proportion that the number of
12 low-income children in the State bears to the
13 total of such numbers of children for all the
14 States.

15 “(2) OTHER ALLOTMENTS.—

16 “(A) OTHER ENTITIES.—For the purpose
17 described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall,
18 for each of fiscal years 2018 and 2019, for any
19 State which has not transmitted an application
20 for the fiscal year under section 505(a), allot to
21 one or more entities in the State the amount
22 that would have been allotted to the State
23 under paragraph (1) if the State had submitted
24 such an application.

1 “(B) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall select
2 the recipients of allotments under subparagraph
3 (A) by means of a competitive grant process
4 under which—

5 “(i) not later than 30 days after the
6 deadline for the State involved to submit
7 an application for the fiscal year under
8 section 505(a), the Secretary publishes a
9 notice soliciting grant applications; and

10 “(ii) not later than 120 days after
11 such deadline, all such applications must
12 be submitted.

13 “(b) PURPOSE.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except for research under
15 paragraph (5) and information collection and report-
16 ing under paragraph (6), the purpose of an allot-
17 ment under subsection (a) to a State (or to another
18 entity in the State pursuant to subsection (a)(2)) is
19 to enable the State or other entity to implement edu-
20 cation exclusively on sexual risk avoidance (meaning
21 voluntarily refraining from sexual activity).

22 “(2) REQUIRED COMPONENTS.—Education on
23 sexual risk avoidance pursuant to an allotment
24 under this section shall—

1 “(A) ensure that the unambiguous and pri-
2 mary emphasis and context for each topic de-
3 scribed in paragraph (3) is a message to youth
4 that normalizes the optimal health behavior of
5 avoiding nonmarital sexual activity;

6 “(B) be medically accurate and complete;

7 “(C) be age-appropriate; and

8 “(D) be based on adolescent learning and
9 developmental theories for the age group receiv-
10 ing the education.

11 “(3) TOPICS.—Education on sexual risk avoid-
12 ance pursuant to an allotment under this section
13 shall address each of the following topics:

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

18 “(B) The advantage of refraining from
19 nonmarital sexual activity in order to improve
20 the future prospects and physical and emotional
21 health of youth.

22 “(C) The increased likelihood of avoiding
23 poverty when youth attain self-sufficiency and
24 emotional maturity before engaging in sexual
25 activity.

1 “(D) The foundational components of
2 healthy relationships and their impact on the
3 formation of healthy marriages and safe and
4 stable families.

5 “(E) How other youth risk behaviors, such
6 as drug and alcohol usage, increase the risk for
7 teen sex.

8 “(F) How to resist and avoid, and receive
9 help regarding, sexual coercion and dating vio-
10 lence, recognizing that even with consent teen
11 sex remains a youth risk behavior.

12 “(4) CONTRACEPTION.—Education on sexual
13 risk avoidance pursuant to an allotment under this
14 section shall ensure that—

15 “(A) any information provided on contra-
16 ception is medically accurate and ensures that
17 students understand that contraception offers
18 physical risk reduction, but not risk elimination;
19 and

20 “(B) the education does not include dem-
21 onstrations, simulations, or distribution of con-
22 traceptive devices.

23 “(5) RESEARCH.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State or other enti-
25 ty receiving an allotment pursuant to subsection

1 (a) may use up to 20 percent of such allotment
2 to build the evidence base for sexual risk avoid-
3 ance education by conducting or supporting re-
4 search.

5 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Any research con-
6 ducted or supported pursuant to subparagraph
7 (A) shall be—

8 “(i) rigorous;

9 “(ii) evidence-based; and

10 “(iii) designed and conducted by inde-
11 pendent researchers who have experience
12 in conducting and publishing research in
13 peer-reviewed outlets.

14 “(6) INFORMATION COLLECTION AND REPORT-
15 ING.—A State or other entity receiving an allotment
16 pursuant to subsection (a) shall, as specified by the
17 Secretary—

18 “(A) collect information on the programs
19 and activities funded through the allotment;
20 and

21 “(B) submit reports to the Secretary on
22 the data from such programs and activities.

23 “(c) NATIONAL EVALUATION.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

1 “(A) in consultation with appropriate State
2 and local agencies, conduct one or more rig-
3 orous evaluations of the education funded
4 through this section and associated data; and

5 “(B) submit a report to the Congress on
6 the results of such evaluations, together with a
7 summary of the information collected pursuant
8 to subsection (b)(6).

9 “(2) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the eval-
10 uations required by paragraph (1), including the es-
11 tablishment of evaluation methodologies, the Sec-
12 retary shall consult with relevant stakeholders.

13 “(d) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—

14 “(1) Sections 503, 507, and 508 apply to allot-
15 ments under subsection (a) to the same extent and
16 in the same manner as such sections apply to allot-
17 ments under section 502(c).

18 “(2) Sections 505 and 506 apply to allotments
19 under subsection (a) to the extent determined by the
20 Secretary to be appropriate.

21 “(e) FUNDING.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section,
23 there is appropriated, out of any money in the
24 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$75,000,000
25 for each of fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

1 “(2) RESERVATION.—The Secretary shall re-
2 serve, for each of fiscal years 2018 and 2019, not
3 more than 20 percent of the amount appropriated
4 pursuant to paragraph (1) for administering the
5 program under this section, including the conducting
6 of national evaluations and the provision of technical
7 assistance to the recipients of allotments.”.

8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
9 this section takes effect on October 1, 2017.

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