

Calendar No. 310

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**H. R. 6914**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22, 2024

Received; read the first time

JANUARY 23, 2024

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

To require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, 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 “Pregnant Students’
5 Rights Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Female students enrolled at institutions of
9 higher education and experiencing an unplanned

1 pregnancy may face pressure that their only option
2 is to receive an abortion or risk academic failure.

3 (2) Almost 30 percent of all abortions in the
4 United States are performed on women of college
5 age, between the ages of 20 and 24, according to a
6 2021 report by the Centers for Disease Control and
7 Prevention.

8 (3) Scientific evidence and personal testimonies
9 document that women who have abortions can be at
10 risk of mental health issues. Studies show that after
11 an abortion, women are 34 percent more likely to
12 develop anxiety disorders, 37 percent more likely to
13 develop depression, 110 percent more likely to rely
14 on alcohol use or abuse, 115 percent more likely to
15 develop suicidal behavior, and 220 percent more like-
16 ly to take on marijuana use or abuse. As many as
17 60 percent of women having an abortion experience
18 some level of emotional distress afterwards, with 30
19 percent being classified as severe distress. Potential
20 complications of abortions include heavy or per-
21 sistent bleeding, damage to cervix, abdominal pain
22 or cramping, scarring of uterine lining, breast can-
23 cer, future premature births or miscarriages, infec-
24 tion or sepsis, placenta previa, perforation of uterus,
25 damage to other organs, and even death.

1 (4) A significant proportion of abortions in the
2 United States are performed on women of college
3 age who may be unaware of their rights to accom-
4 modation and prohibitions against discrimination
5 due to pregnancy under title IX of the Education
6 Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) or
7 deprived of information about abortion alternatives.

8 (5) Additionally, women on college campuses
9 may fear institutional reprisal, loss of athletic schol-
10 arship, and possible negative impact on academic op-
11 portunities during the pregnancy and after child-
12 birth.

13 (6) An academic disparity exists because of the
14 lack of resources, support, and notifications available
15 for female college students who do not wish to re-
16 ceive an abortion or who carry their unborn babies
17 to term.

18 **SEC. 3. NOTICE OF PREGNANT STUDENT RIGHTS, ACCOM-**
19 **MODATIONS, AND RESOURCES.**

20 Section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
21 U.S.C. 1092) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(n) PREGNANT STUDENTS’ RIGHTS, ACCOMMODA-
24 TIONS, AND RESOURCES.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each institution of higher
2 education participating in any program under this
3 title shall carry out the information dissemination
4 activities described in paragraph (3) for prospective
5 and enrolled students (including those attending or
6 planning to attend less than full time) regarding the
7 information described in paragraph (2) on the rights
8 to, and resources (including protections and accom-
9 modations) for, pregnant students to carry a baby to
10 term and students who may become pregnant while
11 enrolled at such institution of higher education to
12 carry a baby to term.

13 “(2) INFORMATION CONTENT.—The informa-
14 tion described in this paragraph is the following:

15 “(A) A list of resources on campus and in
16 the community that exist to help a pregnant
17 student in carrying the baby to term and caring
18 for the baby after birth.

19 “(B) Information about the accommoda-
20 tions available to help a pregnant student carry
21 the baby to term and parent the baby after
22 birth.

23 “(C) Information on how to file a com-
24 plaint with—

1 “(i) the Department of Education, if
2 a student believes there was a violation by
3 the institution of title IX of the Education
4 Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et
5 seq.) on account of such student’s deter-
6 mination to carry a baby to term; and

7 “(ii) the institution, if a student be-
8 lieves the student has been discriminated
9 against in violation of such title IX on ac-
10 count of the student’s determination to
11 carry a baby to term.

12 “(3) INFORMATION DISSEMINATION ACTIVI-
13 TIES.—The information dissemination activities de-
14 scribed in this paragraph shall include—

15 “(A) an email to each enrolled student at
16 the start of each period of study during an aca-
17 demic year; and

18 “(B) the provision of information—

19 “(i) in student handbooks, if any;

20 “(ii) at each orientation for enrolled
21 students;

22 “(iii) at student health or counseling
23 centers, if any; and

24 “(iv) on the publicly available website
25 of the institution of higher education.

1 “(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
2 this subsection shall be construed to authorize the
3 Secretary to require the dissemination of additional
4 information, or establish additional rights, beyond
5 the information and rights included in this sub-
6 section.”.

Passed the House of Representatives January 18,
2024.

Attest:

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,

Clerk.

Calendar No. 310

118TH CONGRESS
2^D Session

H. R. 6914

AN ACT

To require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes.

JANUARY 23, 2024

Read the second time and placed on the calendar