

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1437

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out programs to provide youth in racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities the information and skills needed to reduce teenage pregnancies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28, 2011

Mrs. BOXER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out programs to provide youth in racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities the information and skills needed to reduce teenage pregnancies.

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 “Communities of Color
5 Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Teenage pregnancy is one of the most crit-
2 ical issues facing the Nation today. The United
3 States has the highest teenage pregnancy rate of
4 any developed nation, with nearly 750,000 teenage
5 girls between the ages of 15 and 19 becoming preg-
6 nant each year, and 82 percent of those pregnancies
7 unplanned.

8 (2) For the first time in more than a decade,
9 between 2005 and 2006, the teenage pregnancy rate
10 in the United States rose 3 percent. The decrease in
11 teenage pregnancy rates in the 1990s was over-
12 whelmingly the result of more and better use of con-
13 traceptives.

14 (3) Nationally, teenage pregnancy has signifi-
15 cant fiscal implications, costing taxpayers at least
16 \$10,900,000,000 annually.

17 (4) Communities of color are disproportionately
18 affected by teenage pregnancy. Fifty-two percent of
19 Latinas and 50 percent of African-American girls
20 will become pregnant at least once before they turn
21 20. In comparison, only 19 percent of non-Hispanic
22 white teenage girls under the age of 20 become preg-
23 nant.

24 (5) Between 2007 and 2009, the teen birth rate
25 decreased for most communities of color, however

1 the birth rates for Hispanic, African-American, and
2 Native American teenagers continue to be much
3 higher than other racial and ethnic groups.

4 (6) Research shows that starting a family too
5 soon may have significant social, educational, and fi-
6 nancial impacts on the lives of young people. Less
7 than half of teenage mothers finish high school and
8 less than 2 percent go on to finish college, making
9 it difficult to find and maintain a job.

10 (7) Research also shows that teenage dating vi-
11 olence and abuse are serious public health problems
12 and are associated with higher levels of teenage
13 pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy. Adolescent
14 girls in physically abusive relationships are 3 times
15 more likely to become pregnant than non-abused
16 girls.

17 (8) Promoting and building healthy relation-
18 ships are fundamental to preventing teenage preg-
19 nancies and unplanned pregnancies.

20 **SEC. 3. PROGRAMS TO REDUCE TEENAGE PREGNANCIES.**

21 Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
22 241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

1 “(3) that have a demonstrated history of engag-
2 ing in a meaningful and significant partnership with
3 such targeted communities.

4 “(c) PROGRAM SETTINGS.—Funds received under
5 this section shall be used to provide information and skills
6 as described in subsection (a)—

7 “(1) through classroom-based settings, such as
8 school health education, humanities, language arts,
9 or family and consumer science education;

10 “(2) through after-school programs;

11 “(3) through community-based programs;

12 “(4) through workforce development programs;

13 “(5) through health care settings; or

14 “(6) in collaboration with systems that serve
15 large numbers of at-risk youth, such as juvenile jus-
16 tice or foster care systems.

17 “(d) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—As a condition of
18 receipt of a grant under this section, an entity shall agree
19 that, with respect to information and skills provided
20 through the grant—

21 “(1) such information and skills will be—

22 “(A) age-appropriate;

23 “(B) evidence-based or evidence-informed;

24 “(C) provided in accordance with section

25 39900–5(b); and

1 “(D) culturally sensitive and relevant to
2 the target populations; and

3 “(2) any information about contraceptives shall
4 include the health benefits and side effects of all
5 contraceptives and barrier methods.

6 “(e) EVALUATION.—Of the total amount made avail-
7 able to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Sec-
8 retary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Dis-
9 ease Control and Prevention and other agencies as appro-
10 priate, shall allot up to 10 percent of such amount to carry
11 out a rigorous, independent evaluation to determine the
12 extent and the effectiveness of activities funded through
13 this section in changing attitudes and behavior of teens
14 with respect to healthy relationships and childbearing.

15 “(f) GRANTS FOR INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL ORGA-
16 NIZATIONS.—Of the total amount made available to carry
17 out this section for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall re-
18 serve 5 percent of such amount to award grants under
19 this section to Indian tribes and tribal organizations in
20 such manner, and subject to such requirements, as the
21 Secretary, in consultation with Indian tribes and tribal or-
22 ganizations, determines appropriate.

23 “(g) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term
25 ‘eligible entity’ means a State, local, or tribal agen-

1 cy, a school or postsecondary institution, an after-
2 school program, a nonprofit organization, or a com-
3 munity or faith-based organization.

4 “(2) PREVENTING EXCLUSION OF SMALLER
5 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying
6 out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the
7 amounts and requirements of grants provided under
8 this section do not preclude receipt of such grants
9 by community-based organizations with a dem-
10 onstrated history of effectively working with adoles-
11 cents in racial or ethnic minority or immigrant com-
12 munities or engaged in meaningful and significant
13 partnership with the targeted community.

14 **“SEC. 39900-2. MULTIMEDIA CAMPAIGNS TO REDUCE**
15 **TEENAGE PREGNANCIES.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award com-
17 petitive grants to public or private entities to carry out
18 multimedia campaigns to provide public education and in-
19 crease public awareness regarding teenage pregnancy and
20 related social and emotional issues, such as violence pre-
21 vention.

22 “(b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
23 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to applicants pro-
24 posing to carry out campaigns developed for racial or eth-
25 nic minority or immigrant communities.

1 “(c) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED.—As a condi-
 2 tion of receipt of a grant under this section, an entity shall
 3 agree to use the grant to carry out multimedia campaigns
 4 described in subsection (a) that—

5 “(1) at a minimum, provide information on—

6 “(A) the prevention of teenage pregnancy;

7 and

8 “(B) healthy relationship development; and

9 “(2) may provide information on the prevention
 10 of dating violence.

11 **“SEC. 39900-3. RESEARCH ON REDUCING TEENAGE PREG-**
 12 **NANCIES AND TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND**
 13 **IMPROVING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
 15 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
 16 vention, shall make grants to public and private entities
 17 to conduct, support, or coordinate research on teen preg-
 18 nancy, dating violence, and healthy relationships among
 19 racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities that—

20 “(1) improve data collection on—

21 “(A) sexual and reproductive health, in-
 22 cluding teenage pregnancies and births, among
 23 all minority communities and subpopulations in
 24 which such data are not collected, including
 25 American Indian and Alaska Native youth;

1 “(B) sexual behavior, sexual or reproduc-
2 tive coercion, and teenage contraceptive use
3 patterns at the State level, as appropriate; and

4 “(C) teenage pregnancies among youth in,
5 and aging out of, foster care or juvenile justice
6 systems and the underlying factors that lead to
7 teenage pregnancy among youth in foster care
8 or juvenile justice systems; and

9 “(2) investigate—

10 “(A) the variance in the rates of teenage
11 pregnancy by—

12 “(i) racial and ethnic group, including
13 Hispanic, Asian, African-American, Pacific
14 Islander, American Indian, and Alaskan
15 Native;

16 “(ii) socioeconomic status, taking into
17 account income of the family and edu-
18 cation attainment;

19 “(B) factors affecting young people’s risk
20 of teenage pregnancy or dating abuse, including
21 the physical and social environment, level of ac-
22 culturation, access to healthcare, aspirations for
23 the future, and history of physical or sexual vio-
24 lence or abuse;

1 “(C) the role that violence and abuse play
2 in teenage sex, pregnancy, and childbearing;

3 “(D) strategies to address the dispro-
4 portionate rates of teenage pregnancies and dating
5 violence in racial or ethnic minority or immi-
6 grant communities;

7 “(E) how effective interventions can be
8 replicated or adapted in other settings to serve
9 racial or ethnic minority or immigrant commu-
10 nities; and

11 “(F) the effectiveness of media campaigns
12 addressing healthy relationship development,
13 dating violence prevention, and teenage preg-
14 nancy; or

15 “(3) test research-based strategies for address-
16 ing high rates of unintended teenage pregnancy
17 through programs that emphasize healthy relation-
18 ships and violence prevention.

19 “(b) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this section, the
20 Secretary shall give priority to research that incor-
21 porates—

22 “(1) interdisciplinary approaches;

23 “(2) a strong emphasis on community-based
24 participatory research; or

25 “(3) translational research.

1 **“SEC. 39900–4. ADOLESCENT HEALTH WORK GROUP.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
3 date of the enactment of the Communities of Color Teen-
4 age Pregnancy Prevention Act of 2011, the Secretary shall
5 direct the Interagency Adolescent Health Work Group
6 within the Office of Adolescent Health of the Department
7 of Health and Human Services to include teen dating vio-
8 lence prevention and healthy teen relationship strategies
9 in the work of such group, with a particular focus among
10 racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities, in
11 consultation with the Interagency Working Group on Teen
12 Dating Violence chaired by the Department of Justice.

13 “(b) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall
14 periodically submit to Congress a report containing—

15 “(1) a review of the evidence-based programs
16 identified by the Adolescent Health Work Group;
17 and

18 “(2) a description of such programs that in-
19 clude teen dating violence and healthy teen relation-
20 ships as part of the strategy to prevent teen preg-
21 nancy.

22 **“SEC. 39900–5. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

23 “(a) APPLICATIONS.—An entity seeking a grant
24 under this part shall submit an application to the Sec-
25 retary at such time, in such manner, and containing such

1 agreements, assurances, and information as the Secretary
2 may require.

3 “(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary
4 may award a grant under this part only if the applicant
5 involved agrees that information, activities, and services
6 provided under the grant—

7 “(1) will be evidence-based or evidence in-
8 formed;

9 “(2) will be factually and medically accurate
10 and complete; and

11 “(3) in the case of a grant program directed to
12 a particular population group, will be provided in an
13 appropriate language and cultural context.

14 “(c) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the total amount made
16 available to carry out this part for a fiscal year, the
17 Secretary shall use 10 percent to provide, directly or
18 through a competitive grant process, training and
19 technical assistance to the grant recipients under
20 this part, including by disseminating research and
21 information regarding effective and promising prac-
22 tices, providing consultation and resources on a
23 broad array of teenage and unintended pregnancy
24 and violence prevention strategies, and developing
25 resources and materials.

1 “(2) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out this
2 subsection, the Secretary shall collaborate with enti-
3 ties that have expertise in the prevention of teenage
4 pregnancy, healthy relationship development, minor-
5 ity health and health disparities, and violence pre-
6 vention.

7 **“SEC. 39900-6. DEFINITIONS.**

8 “In this part:

9 “(1) MEDICALLY ACCURATE AND COMPLETE.—
10 The term ‘medically accurate and complete’ means,
11 with respect to information, activities, or services—

12 “(A) verified or supported by the weight of
13 research conducted in compliance with accepted
14 scientific methods; and

15 “(B)(i) published in peer-reviewed jour-
16 nals, where applicable; or

17 “(ii) comprising information that leading
18 professional organizations and agencies with
19 relevant expertise in the field recognize as accu-
20 rate, objective, and complete.

21 “(2) RACIAL OR ETHNIC MINORITY OR IMMI-
22 GRANT COMMUNITIES.—The term ‘racial or ethnic
23 minority or immigrant communities’ means commu-
24 nities with a substantial number of residents who

1 are members of racial or ethnic minority groups or
2 who are immigrants.

3 “(3) REPRODUCTIVE COERCION.—The term ‘re-
4 productive coercion’ means, with respect to a person,
5 coercive behavior that interferes with the ability of
6 the person to control the reproductive decision-
7 making, such as intentionally exposing such person
8 to sexually transmitted infections, in the case such
9 person is a female, attempting to impregnate such
10 person against her will, intentionally interfering with
11 the person’s birth control, or threatening or acting
12 violently if the person does not comply with the per-
13 petrator’s wishes regarding contraception or the de-
14 cision whether to terminate or continue a pregnancy.

15 “(4) YOUTH.—The term ‘youth’ means individ-
16 uals who are 11 to 19 years of age.

17 **“SEC. 39900-7. REPORTS.**

18 “(a) REPORT ON THE USE OF FUNDS.—Not later
19 than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Commu-
20 nities of Color Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Act of
21 2011, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on
22 the use of funds provided under this part.

23 “(b) REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF PROGRAMS.—Not
24 later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary shall submit to

1 Congress a report on the impact that the programs under
2 this part had on reducing teenage pregnancy.

3 **“SEC. 39900-8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
5 propriated to carry out this part such sums as may be
6 necessary for each of the fiscal years 2012 through 2016.

7 “(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under
8 subsection (a)—

9 “(1) are authorized to remain available until ex-
10 pended; and

11 “(2) are in addition to amounts otherwise made
12 available for such purposes.”.

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