

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5128

To prohibit the award of Federal education funds to educational institutions and agencies that do not allow for religious exemptions to vaccination requirements, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2026

Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To prohibit the award of Federal education funds to educational institutions and agencies that do not allow for religious exemptions to vaccination requirements, 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 “Guaranteeing Religious
5 Accommodation in Childhood Education Act” or the
6 “GRACE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON AWARD OF FEDERAL EDUCATION**
2 **FUNDS TO CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-**
3 **TIONS AND AGENCIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—No Federal education funds may
5 be made available to an educational institution or agency
6 that has a vaccination requirement, unless such institution
7 or agency maintains a policy under which—

8 (1) an individual may be exempted from such
9 requirement if such individual (or their parent or
10 guardian, in the case of an individual who is a child)
11 asserts that receiving the vaccination would violate a
12 sincerely held religious belief; and

13 (2) no documentation or other information is
14 required to be submitted by the individual (or their
15 parent or guardian) to support the validity of such
16 assertion.

17 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) CHILD.—The term “child” means an indi-
19 vidual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

20 (2) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OR AGENCY.—
21 The term “educational institution or agency” means
22 an elementary school, secondary school, local edu-
23 cational agency, or State educational agency (as
24 those terms are defined in section 8101 of the Ele-
25 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
26 U.S.C. 7801)).

1 (3) VACCINATION REQUIREMENT.—The term
2 “vaccination requirement” means any requirement
3 by an educational institution or agency that, as a
4 condition for enrollment, attendance, participation in
5 athletics or other student activities, or employment
6 at the institution or agency, requires an individual
7 to have received one or more vaccinations.

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