

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1736

To provide for a reduction in the rate of adolescent pregnancy through the evaluation of public and private prevention programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 1997

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. CASTLE, Mrs. CLAYTON, and Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To provide for a reduction in the rate of adolescent pregnancy through the evaluation of public and private prevention programs, 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 “Teenage Pregnancy
5 Reduction Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS FOR PRE-
7 VENTION OF ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
9 Human Services shall (directly or through grants or con-

1 tracts awarded to public or nonprofit private entities) ar-
2 range for the evaluation of a wide variety of existing pro-
3 grams designed in whole or part to prevent pregnancy in
4 adolescents, including programs that do not receive grants
5 from the Federal Government for the operation of the pro-
6 grams. The purpose of the evaluation shall be the deter-
7 mination of—

8 (1) the effectiveness of such programs in reduc-
9 ing adolescent pregnancy;

10 (2) the factors contributing to the effectiveness
11 of the programs; and

12 (3) the feasibility of replicating the programs in
13 other locations.

14 (b) PARTICIPATION OF FEDERAL AGENCIES AND
15 PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the evalua-
16 tion under subsection (a), the Secretary shall as appro-
17 priate—

18 (1) provide for the participation of the Director
19 of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
20 the Director of the Office of Population Affairs, the
21 Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, and
22 the Director of the National Institute of Child
23 Health and Human Development; and

24 (2) provide for the participation of organiza-
25 tions with demonstrated expertise in conducting

1 evaluations of adolescent pregnancy prevention pro-
2 grams, including the National Campaign to Prevent
3 Teen Pregnancy, a nonpartisan organization.

4 (c) DESIGN OF EVALUATION.—Subject to subsection
5 (d), the Secretary shall select a design for the evaluation
6 under subsection (a) from among proposals that—

7 (1) provide for the evaluation of programs in
8 various geographic regions;

9 (2) with respect to the populations served by
10 the programs, provide for determining factors that
11 are specific to various socioeconomic, racial, ethnic,
12 and age groups, and factors that are specific to gen-
13 der; and

14 (3) meet such other criteria as the Secretary
15 may establish.

16 (d) MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The Secretary
17 shall define the measures of effectiveness used in evaluat-
18 ing the programs designed to reduce the rate of adolescent
19 pregnancy, and shall include a variety of measures of ef-
20 fectiveness in the definition.

21 (e) SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary may
22 provide funds for an evaluation pursuant to subsection (a)
23 only if the evaluation has been recommended for approval
24 pursuant to a process of scientific peer review utilizing one

1 or more panels of experts. Such panels shall include ex-
2 perts from public entities and from private entities.

3 (f) SUBMISSION OF REPORT TO CONGRESS AND SEC-
4 RETARY.—Not later than December 1, 2002, the evalua-
5 tion under subsection (a) shall be completed and a report
6 shall be submitted to the Congress that describes the find-
7 ings made in the evaluation and provides recommenda-
8 tions for future programs designed to reduce the rate of
9 adolescent pregnancy.

10 (g) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—After the
11 submission of the report under subsection (f), the Sec-
12 retary shall disseminate the findings and recommenda-
13 tions presented in the report. The categories of individuals
14 to whom the information is disseminated shall include ad-
15 ministrators of prevention programs, public and private
16 entities providing financial support to such programs, or-
17 ganizations working on such programs, professional medi-
18 cal associations, entities providing public health services,
19 entities providing social work services, and school adminis-
20 trators.

21 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
22 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
23 to be appropriated \$3,500,000 for each of the fiscal years
24 1998 through 2000, and such sums as may be necessary
25 for each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2003.

1 **SEC. 3. ONE-TIME INCENTIVE GRANTS FOR EFFECTIVE**
2 **PREVENTION PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a prevention pro-
4 gram that pursuant to the evaluation under section 2 has
5 been found to be effective, the Secretary may under this
6 section make not more than one grant to the entity that
7 operates the program. The purpose of the grant shall be
8 to assist the entity with the expenses of operating the pro-
9 gram.

10 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For car-
11 rying out subsection (a), there is authorized to be appro-
12 priated \$10,000,000, in the aggregate, for the fiscal years
13 2002 through 2004. Such authorization is in addition to
14 any other authorization of appropriations that is available
15 for making grants for the operational expenses of preven-
16 tion programs.

17 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

18 (a) PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—

19 (1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The provisions
20 of this Act apply with respect to a prevention pro-
21 gram without regard to which of the various pro-
22 grammatic approaches for the prevention of preg-
23 nancy in adolescents (as defined in paragraph (2))
24 is the focus of the program.

25 (2) PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES.—For pur-
26 poses of this Act, the term “programmatic ap-

1 proaches”, with respect to prevention programs, in-
2 cludes advocating abstinence from sexual activity;
3 providing family planning services (including contra-
4 ception); fostering academic achievement; mentoring
5 by adults; providing employment assistance or job
6 training; providing professional counseling or peer
7 counseling; providing for recreational or social
8 events; and any combination thereof.

9 (b) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

10 (1) The term “prevention program” means a
11 program for the prevention of pregnancy in adoles-
12 cents.

13 (2) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
14 of Health and Human Services.

