

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2553

To provide for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy, HIV rates, and other sexually transmitted diseases, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2005

Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CAPPES, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DICKS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. STARK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. WYNN, Ms. LORETTA SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SOLIS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WEINER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. MEEK of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To provide for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy, HIV



rates, and other sexually transmitted diseases, 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 “Responsible Education  
5   About Life Act”.

6   **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds as follows:

8           (1) The American Medical Association  
9       (“AMA”), the American Nurses Association  
10      (“ANA”), the American Academy of Pediatrics  
11      (“AAP”), the American College of Obstetricians and  
12      Gynecologists (“ACOG”), the American Public  
13      Health Association (“APHA”), and the Society of  
14      Adolescent Medicine (“SAM”), support responsible  
15      sexuality education that includes information about  
16      both abstinence and contraception.

17           (2) Recent scientific reports by the Institute of  
18      Medicine, the American Medical Association and the  
19      Office on National AIDS Policy stress the need for  
20      sexuality education that includes messages about ab-  
21      stinence and provides young people with information  
22      about contraception for the prevention of teen preg-  
23      nancy, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted  
24      diseases (“STDs”).

12 (5) The median age of puberty is 13 years and  
13 the average age of marriage is over 26 years old.  
14 American teens need access to full, complete, and  
15 medically and factually accurate information regard-  
16 ing sexuality, including contraception, STD/HIV  
17 prevention, and abstinence.

18 (6) Although teen pregnancy rates are decreasing  
19 there are still between 750,000 and 850,000  
20 teen pregnancies each year. Between 75 and 90 per-  
21 cent of teen pregnancies among 15- to 19-year olds  
22 are unintended.

1       was due to improved contraceptive use, while 25 per-  
2       cent was due to increased abstinence.

3           (8) More than eight out of ten Americans be-  
4       lieve that young people should have information  
5       about abstinence and protecting themselves from un-  
6       planned pregnancies and sexually transmitted dis-  
7       eases.

8           (9) United States teens acquire an estimated  
9       4,000,000 sexually transmitted infections each year.  
10       By age 24, at least one in three sexually active peo-  
11       ple will have contracted a sexually transmitted dis-  
12       ease.

13           (10) An average of two young people in the  
14       United States are infected with HIV every hour of  
15       every day. African Americans and Hispanic youth  
16       have been disproportionately affected by the HIV/  
17       AIDS epidemic. Although less than 16 percent of  
18       the adolescent population in the United States is Af-  
19       rican American, nearly 50 percent of AIDS cases  
20       through June 2000 among 13- to 19-year olds were  
21       among Blacks. Hispanics comprise 13 percent of the  
22       population and 20 percent of the reported adolescent  
23       AIDS cases though June 2000.

1   **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE TO REDUCE TEEN PREGNANCY, HIV/**  
2                   **AIDS, AND OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED**  
3                   **DISEASES AND TO SUPPORT HEALTHY ADO-**  
4                   **LESCENT DEVELOPMENT.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible State shall be enti-  
6    tled to receive from the Secretary of Health and Human  
7    Services, for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010,  
8    a grant to conduct programs of family life education, in-  
9    cluding education on both abstinence and contraception  
10   for the prevention of teenage pregnancy and sexually  
11   transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

12     (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR FAMILY LIFE PROGRAMS.—  
13   For purposes of this Act, a program of family life edu-  
14   cation is a program that—

15           (1) is age-appropriate and medically accurate;  
16           (2) does not teach or promote religion;  
17           (3) teaches that abstinence is the only sure way  
18   to avoid pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases;  
19           (4) stresses the value of abstinence while not ig-  
20   noring those young people who have had or are hav-  
21   ing sexual intercourse;

22           (5) provides information about the health bene-  
23   fits and side effects of all contraceptives and barrier  
24   methods as a means to prevent pregnancy;

25           (6) provides information about the health bene-  
26   fits and side effects of all contraceptives and barrier

1       methods as a means to reduce the risk of con-  
2       tracting sexually transmitted diseases, including  
3       HIV/AIDS;

4               (7) encourages family communication about  
5       sexuality between parent and child;

6               (8) teaches young people the skills to make re-  
7       sponsible decisions about sexuality, including how to  
8       avoid unwanted verbal, physical, and sexual ad-  
9       vances and how not to make unwanted verbal, phys-  
10       ical, and sexual advances; and

11               (9) teaches young people how alcohol and drug  
12       use can effect responsible decisionmaking.

13       (c) ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out a pro-  
14       gram of family life education, a State may expend a grant  
15       under subsection (a) to carry out educational and motiva-  
16       tional activities that help young people—

17               (1) gain knowledge about the physical, emo-  
18       tional, biological, and hormonal changes of adoles-  
19       cence and subsequent stages of human maturation;

20               (2) develop the knowledge and skills necessary  
21       to ensure and protect their sexual and reproductive  
22       health from unintended pregnancy and sexually  
23       transmitted disease, including HIV/AIDS through-  
24       out their lifespan;

4 (4) develop healthy attitudes and values about  
5 adolescent growth and development, body image,  
6 gender roles, racial and ethnic diversity, sexual ori-  
7 entation, and other subjects;

(5) develop and practice healthy life skills including goal-setting, decisionmaking, negotiation, communication, and stress management;

## 21 SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

22 It is the sense of Congress that while States are not  
23 required to provide matching funds, they are encouraged  
24 to do so.

1 **SEC. 5. EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of evaluating the  
3 effectiveness of programs of family life education carried  
4 out with a grant under section 3, evaluations of such pro-  
5 gram shall be carried out in accordance with subsections  
6 (b) and (c).

7 (b) NATIONAL EVALUATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide  
9 for a national evaluation of a representative sample  
10 of programs of family life education carried out with  
11 grants under section 3. A condition for the receipt  
12 of such a grant is that the State involved agree to  
13 cooperate with the evaluation. The purposes of the  
14 national evaluation shall be the determination of—

15 (A) the effectiveness of such programs in  
16 helping to delay the initiation of sexual inter-  
17 course and other high-risk behaviors;

18 (B) the effectiveness of such programs in  
19 preventing adolescent pregnancy;

20 (C) the effectiveness of such programs in  
21 preventing sexually transmitted disease, includ-  
22 ing HIV/AIDS;

23 (D) the effectiveness of such programs in  
24 increasing contraceptive knowledge and contra-  
25 ceptive behaviors when sexual intercourse oc-  
26 curs; and

1 (E) a list of best practices based upon es-  
2 sential programmatic components of evaluated  
3 programs that have led to success in subpara-  
4 graphs (A) through (D).

10 (c) INDIVIDUAL STATE EVALUATIONS.—

16 (A) The evaluation will be conducted by an  
17 external, independent entity.

18 (B) The purposes of the evaluation will be  
19 the determination of—

20 (i) the effectiveness of such programs  
21 in helping to delay the initiation of sexual  
22 intercourse and other high-risk behaviors;

23 (ii) the effectiveness of such programs  
24 in preventing adolescent pregnancy;

1 (iii) the effectiveness of such pro-  
2 grams in preventing sexually transmitted  
3 disease, including HIV/AIDS; and

4 (iv) the effectiveness of such programs  
5 in increasing contraceptive knowledge and  
6 contraceptive behaviors when sexual inter-  
7 course occurs.

## 13 SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

14 For purposes of this Act:

21 (2) The term "HIV/AIDS" means the human  
22 immunodeficiency virus, and includes acquired im-  
23 mune deficiency syndrome.

24 (3) The term “medically accurate”, with respect  
25 to information, means information that is supported

1 by research, recognized as accurate and objective by  
2 leading medical, psychological, psychiatric, and pub-  
3 lic health organizations and agencies, and where rel-  
4 evant, published in peer review journals.

5 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
6 of Health and Human Services.

7 **SEC. 7. APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out  
9 this Act, there is authorized to be appropriated  
10 \$206,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 through  
11 2010.

12 (b) ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amounts appropriated  
13 under subsection (a) for a fiscal year—

14 (1) not more than 7 percent may be used for  
15 the administrative expenses of the Secretary in car-  
16 rying out this Act for that fiscal year; and

17 (2) not more than 10 percent may be used for  
18 the national evaluation under section 5(b).

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