

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 923

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants on a competitive basis to public and private entities to provide qualified sexual risk avoidance education to youth and their parents.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 14, 2015

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. COATS) 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, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants on a competitive basis to public and private entities to provide qualified sexual risk avoidance education to youth and their parents.

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 “Healthy Relationships
5 Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION.**

2 Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 399V-6. SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
7 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services
8 Administration, may award grants on a competitive basis
9 to public and private entities to provide qualified sexual
10 risk avoidance education to youth and their parents.

11 “(b) QUALIFIED SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDU-
12 CATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under sub-
13 section (a), an entity shall submit an application to the
14 Secretary describing a sexual risk avoidance education
15 program that the entity would offer and that meets all
16 of the following requirements:

17 “(1) The primary emphasis and context for
18 each topic covered through the program shall be the
19 unambiguous message that postponing sexual activ-
20 ity is the optimal sexual health behavior for youth.

21 “(2) The education shall be medically accurate.

22 “(3) The education shall use an evidence-based
23 approach.

24 “(4) The education shall be age appropriate.

25 “(5) The education shall include thorough
26 treatment of each of the following topics:

1 “(A) The holistic individual and societal
2 benefits associated with personal responsibility,
3 success sequencing, self-regulation, goal-setting,
4 healthy decisionmaking, and a focus on the fu-
5 ture.

6 “(B) The research-based advantage of re-
7 serving sexual activity for marriage, as associ-
8 ated with poverty prevention and optimal phys-
9 ical and emotional health for all youth, regard-
10 less of previous sexual experience.

11 “(C) The skills needed to resist the perva-
12 sive sex-saturated culture that portrays teenage
13 sexual activity as an expected norm, with few
14 risks or negative consequences.

15 “(D) The foundational components of
16 healthy relationships and their impact on the
17 formation of healthy marriages and safe and
18 stable families.

19 “(E) How to avoid sexual coercion, dating
20 violence, and risk behaviors, such as drugs, al-
21 cohol, and the misuse of social media.

22 “(6) The education shall ensure that any infor-
23 mation provided on contraception emphasizes the su-
24 perior health benefits of sexual delay and does not
25 exaggerate the effectiveness of contraception in pre-

1 venting the physical and non-physical consequences
2 of teen sexual activity.

3 “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under sub-
4 section (a), the Secretary shall give priority to applicants
5 proposing programs to provide qualified sexual risk avoid-
6 ance education that—

7 “(1) serves youth throughout the middle and
8 high school grades; and

9 “(2) will promote parent-child communication
10 regarding healthy sexual decisionmaking.

11 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

12 “(1) The term ‘age appropriate’ means appro-
13 prium for the general developmental and social ma-
14 turity of the age group, as opposed to appropriate
15 to the cognitive ability to understand a topic or the
16 atypical development of a small segment of the tar-
17 geted population.

18 “(2) The term ‘evidence-based approach’ means
19 an approach that—

20 “(A) has a clear theoretical framework in-
21 tegrating research findings with practical imple-
22 mentation relevant to the field;

23 “(B) matches the needs and desired out-
24 comes for the intended audience; and

1 “(C) if effectively implemented, will dem-
2 onstrate improved outcomes for the targeted
3 population.

4 “(3) The term ‘medically accurate’ means ref-
5 erenced to peer-reviewed research by medical, edu-
6 cational, scientific, governmental, or public health
7 publications, organizations, or agencies.

8 “(4) The term ‘sexual risk avoidance’ means
9 voluntarily refraining from sexual activity.

10 “(5) The term ‘sexual activity’ means genital
11 contact or sexual stimulation for the purpose of
12 arousal, including sexual intercourse.

13 “(6) The term ‘success sequencing’ means the
14 progression of youth through a series of behavioral
15 benchmarks that increases the youth’s chances of
16 avoiding poverty, in the following sequence: com-
17 pleting school, securing a job, and marrying before
18 bearing children.

19 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
21 appropriated \$110,000,000 for each of fiscal years
22 2016 through 2020 to carry out this section.
23 Amounts authorized to be appropriated by the pre-
24 ceding sentence shall be derived exclusively from
25 amounts in the Prevention and Public Health Fund

1 established by section 4002 of the Patient Protection
2 and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–11).

3 “(2) FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of
4 the amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for
5 a fiscal year—

6 “(A) not more than \$1,000,000 may be
7 used for Federal administrative costs; and

8 “(B) of the amount used by the Secretary
9 for administrative costs, at least 40 percent
10 shall be used for training and technical assist-
11 ance by qualified organizations—

12 “(i) whose sole focus is the develop-
13 ment and advancement of sexual risk
14 avoidance;

15 “(ii) have expertise in theory-based
16 sexual risk avoidance curriculum develop-
17 ment and implementation;

18 “(iii) have direct experience in devel-
19 oping sexual risk avoidance evaluation in-
20 struments; and

21 “(iv) can offer technical assistance
22 and training on a wide range of topics rel-
23 evant to the sexual risk avoidance field.”.

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