

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6914

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## AN ACT

To require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Pregnant Students’  
3 Rights Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Female students enrolled at institutions of  
7 higher education and experiencing an unplanned  
8 pregnancy may face pressure that their only option  
9 is to receive an abortion or risk academic failure.

10 (2) Almost 30 percent of all abortions in the  
11 United States are performed on women of college  
12 age, between the ages of 20 and 24, according to a  
13 2021 report by the Centers for Disease Control and  
14 Prevention.

15 (3) Scientific evidence and personal testimonies  
16 document that women who have abortions can be at  
17 risk of mental health issues. Studies show that after  
18 an abortion, women are 34 percent more likely to  
19 develop anxiety disorders, 37 percent more likely to  
20 develop depression, 110 percent more likely to rely  
21 on alcohol use or abuse, 115 percent more likely to  
22 develop suicidal behavior, and 220 percent more like-  
23 ly to take on marijuana use or abuse. As many as  
24 60 percent of women having an abortion experience  
25 some level of emotional distress afterwards, with 30  
26 percent being classified as severe distress. Potential

1 complications of abortions include heavy or per-  
2 sistent bleeding, damage to cervix, abdominal pain  
3 or cramping, scarring of uterine lining, breast can-  
4 cer, future premature births or miscarriages, infec-  
5 tion or sepsis, placenta previa, perforation of uterus,  
6 damage to other organs, and even death.

7 (4) A significant proportion of abortions in the  
8 United States are performed on women of college  
9 age who may be unaware of their rights to accom-  
10modation and prohibitions against discrimination  
11 due to pregnancy under title IX of the Education  
12 Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) or  
13 deprived of information about abortion alternatives.

14 (5) Additionally, women on college campuses  
15 may fear institutional reprisal, loss of athletic schol-  
16 arship, and possible negative impact on academic op-  
17 portunities during the pregnancy and after child-  
18 birth.

19 (6) An academic disparity exists because of the  
20 lack of resources, support, and notifications available  
21 for female college students who do not wish to re-  
22 ceive an abortion or who carry their unborn babies  
23 to term.

1 **SEC. 3. NOTICE OF PREGNANT STUDENT RIGHTS, ACCOM-**  
2 **MODATIONS, AND RESOURCES.**

3 Section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
4 U.S.C. 1092) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 “(n) PREGNANT STUDENTS’ RIGHTS, ACCOMMODA-  
7 TIONS, AND RESOURCES.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each institution of higher  
9 education participating in any program under this  
10 title shall carry out the information dissemination  
11 activities described in paragraph (3) for prospective  
12 and enrolled students (including those attending or  
13 planning to attend less than full time) regarding the  
14 information described in paragraph (2) on the rights  
15 to, and resources (including protections and accom-  
16 modations) for, pregnant students to carry a baby to  
17 term and students who may become pregnant while  
18 enrolled at such institution of higher education to  
19 carry a baby to term.

20 “(2) INFORMATION CONTENT.—The informa-  
21 tion described in this paragraph is the following:

22 “(A) A list of resources on campus and in  
23 the community that exist to help a pregnant  
24 student in carrying the baby to term and caring  
25 for the baby after birth.

1           “(B) Information about the accommoda-  
2           tions available to help a pregnant student carry  
3           the baby to term and parent the baby after  
4           birth.

5           “(C) Information on how to file a com-  
6           plaint with—

7                   “(i) the Department of Education, if  
8                   a student believes there was a violation by  
9                   the institution of title IX of the Education  
10                  Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et  
11                  seq.) on account of such student’s deter-  
12                  mination to carry a baby to term; and

13                   “(ii) the institution, if a student be-  
14                   lieves the student has been discriminated  
15                   against in violation of such title IX on ac-  
16                   count of the student’s determination to  
17                   carry a baby to term.

18           “(3) INFORMATION DISSEMINATION ACTIVI-  
19           TIES.—The information dissemination activities de-  
20           scribed in this paragraph shall include—

21                   “(A) an email to each enrolled student at  
22                   the start of each period of study during an aca-  
23                   demic year; and

24                   “(B) the provision of information—

25                           “(i) in student handbooks, if any;

1 “(ii) at each orientation for enrolled  
2 students;

3 “(iii) at student health or counseling  
4 centers, if any; and

5 “(iv) on the publicly available website  
6 of the institution of higher education.

7 “(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in  
8 this subsection shall be construed to authorize the  
9 Secretary to require the dissemination of additional  
10 information, or establish additional rights, beyond  
11 the information and rights included in this sub-  
12 section.”.

Passed the House of Representatives January 18,  
2024.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



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