



IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2020

Be it enacted by the Congress of the United States of America in Congress Assembled,

A BILL

To promote the overall health of young people and teenagers with safe and comprehensive sexual education.

Proposed By: Senator Ian (R-PA-2) (for himself,)

Co-Sponsored By: Senate Majority Leader James (R-GA-2)

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This bill may be cited as “S.16,” “WISE Act of 2020” or “Wisdom in Sexual Education Act of 2020”

SECTION 2. PURPOSES, FINDINGS, AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) Purposes.—The purposes of this Act are to provide young people with comprehensive sex education programs that—

- (i) promote and uphold the rights of young people to information in order to make healthy decisions about their sexual health;
- (ii) provide the information and skills all young people need to make informed, responsible, and healthy decisions in order to become sexually healthy adults and have healthy relationships; and
- (iii) provide information about the prevention of unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, dating violence, sexual assault, bullying, and harassment;

- (b) Finding On Required Resources.—In order to provide the comprehensive sex education described in subsection (a), Congress finds that increased resources are required for sex education programs that—
- (i) substantially incorporate elements of evidence-based programs or characteristics of effective programs;
 - (ii) cover a broad range of topics, including medically accurate and complete information that is age and developmentally appropriate about all the aspects of sexual health;
- (c) Sense Of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that—
- (i) federally funded sex education programs should aim to—
 - (1) provide information about a range of human sexuality topics, including—
 - a) human development, healthy relationships, personal skills;
 - b) sexual behavior including abstinence;
 - c) sexual health including preventing unintended pregnancy;
 - d) sexually transmitted infections including HIV; and
 - e) society and culture;
 - (2) be built on characteristics of effective programs;
 - (3) expand the existing body of research on comprehensive sex education programs through program evaluation;
 - (4) expand training programs for teachers of comprehensive sex education; and
 - (5) promote and uphold the rights of young people to information in order to make healthy and autonomous decisions about their sexual health
 - (ii) no Federal funds should be used for health education programs that—
 - (1) withhold health-promoting or life-saving information about sexuality-related topics, including HIV;
 - (2) are insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of sexually active young people;
 - (3) are insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of survivors of sexual violence;
 - (4) are insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of youth of all physical, developmental, and mental abilities; or
 - (5) are insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of youth with varying gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations;

SECTION 3. GRANT PROGRAM

- (a) Program Authorized.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Associate Commissioner of the Family and Youth Services Bureau of the Administration on Children, Youth, and

Families of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Director of the Office of Adolescent Health, the Director of the Division of Adolescent and School Health within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Secretary of Education, shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to enable such eligible entities to carry out programs that provide adolescents with comprehensive sex education, as described in subsection (f).

- (b) Duration.—Grants awarded under this section shall be for a period of 5 years.
- (c) Eligible Entity.—In this section, the term “eligible entity” means a public or private entity that focuses on adolescent health and education or has experience working with adolescents.
- (d) Applications.—An eligible entity desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including an assurance to participate in the evaluation described in section 6.
- (e) Priority.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that—
 - (i) are State or local public entities;
 - (ii) are entities not currently receiving funds under—
 - (1) section 513 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 713);
 - (2) the Office of Adolescent Health’s Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, funded under title II of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111–117; 123 Stat. 3253), or any substantially similar successive program; or
 - (3) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of Adolescent and School Health; and
 - (iii) address health inequities among young people that face systemic barriers resulting in disproportionate rates of not less than one of the following:
 - (1) Unintended pregnancies.
 - (2) Sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.
 - (3) Dating violence and sexual violence.
- (f) Use Of Funds.—
 - (i) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out an education program that provides adolescents with comprehensive sex education that—

- (1) is age and developmentally appropriate;
 - (2) is medically accurate and complete;
 - (3) substantially incorporates elements of evidence-based sex education instruction; or
 - (4) creates a demonstration project based on characteristics of effective programs.
- (ii) **CONTENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**—The comprehensive sex education programs funded under this section shall include instruction and materials that address—
- (1) the physical, social, and emotional changes of human development including, human anatomy, reproduction, and sexual development;
 - (2) healthy relationships, including friendships, within families, and society, that are based on mutual respect, and the ability to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy relationships, including—
 - a) effective communication, negotiation and refusal skills, including the skills to recognize and report inappropriate or abusive sexual advances;
 - b) bodily autonomy, setting and respecting personal boundaries, practicing personal safety, and consent; and
 - c) the limitations and harm of violence, coercion, bullying, harassment, and intimidation in relationships;
- (iii) healthy decision making skills about sexuality and relationships that include—
- (1) critical thinking, problem solving, self-efficacy, stress-management, self-care, and decision making;
 - (2) individual values and attitudes;
 - (3) the promotion of positive body images;
 - (4) developing an understanding that there are a range of body types and encouraging positive feeling about students' own body types;
 - (5) information on how to respect others and ensure safety on the internet and when using other forms of digital communication;
 - (6) information on local services and resources where students can obtain additional information related to bullying, harassment, dating violence and sexual assault, suicide prevention, and other related care;
 - (7) encouragement for youth to communicate with their parents or guardians, health and social service professionals, and other trusted adults about sexuality and intimate relationships;

- (8) information on how to create a safe environment for all students and others in society;
- (iv) abstinence, delaying age of first sexual activity, the use of condoms, preventive medication, vaccination, birth control, and other sexually transmitted infection prevention measures, and the options for pregnancy, including parenting, adoption, and abortion including—
 - (1) the importance of effectively using condoms, preventive medication, and applicable vaccinations to protect against sexually transmitted infections, including HIV;
 - (2) the benefits of effective contraceptive and condom use in avoiding unintended pregnancy;
 - (3) the relationship between substance use and sexual health and behaviors; and
 - (4) information about local health services where students can obtain additional information and services related to sexual and reproductive health and other related care;

SECTION 4. GRANTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

- (a) Program Authorized.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher education or consortia of such institutions to enable such institutions to provide young people with comprehensive sex education, described in subsection (e)(2).
- (b) Duration.—Grants awarded under this section shall be for a period of 5 years.
- (c) Applications.—An institution of higher education or consortia of such institutions desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including an assurance to participate in the evaluation described in section 6.
- (d) Priority.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to an institution of higher education that—
 - (i) has an enrollment of needy students as defined in section 318(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059e(b));
- (e) Uses Of Funds.—

- (i) **IN GENERAL.**—An institution of higher education receiving a grant under this section shall use grant funds to integrate issues relating to comprehensive sex education into institution of higher education in order to reach a large number of students, by carrying out one or more of the following activities:
 - (1) Developing or adopting educational content for issues relating to comprehensive sex education that will be incorporated into student orientation, general education, or core courses.
 - (2) Developing or adopting, and implementing schoolwide educational programming outside of class that delivers elements of comprehensive sex education programs to students, faculty, and staff.
 - (3) Developing or adopting innovative technology-based approaches to deliver sex education to students, faculty, and staff.
 - (4) Developing or adopting, and implementing peer-outreach and education programs to generate discussion, educate, and raise awareness among students about issues relating to comprehensive sex education.
- (ii) **CONTENTS OF SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**—Each institution of higher education’s program of comprehensive sex education funded under this section shall include instruction and materials that address the requirements under section 3(f).

SECTION 5. GRANTS FOR PRE-SERVICE AND IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING.

- (a) **Program Authorized.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Secretary of Education, shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to enable such eligible entities to carry out the activities described in subsection (e).
- (b) **Duration.**—Grants awarded under this section shall be for a period of 5 years.
- (c) **Eligible Entity.**—In this section, the term “eligible entity” means—
 - (i) a State or local educational agency;
 - (ii) a State or local department of health;
 - (iii) a tribe or tribal organization, as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304);
 - (iv) an educational service agency;
 - (v) a nonprofit institution of higher education;
 - (vi) a national or statewide nonprofit organization that has as its primary purpose the improvement of provision of comprehensive sex education through training and effective teaching of comprehensive sex education; or

- (vii) a consortium of nonprofit organizations that has as its primary purpose the improvement of provision of comprehensive sex education through training and effective teaching of comprehensive sex education.
- (d) Application.—An eligible entity desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including an assurance to participate in the evaluation described in section 6.
- (e) Authorized Activities.—
 - (i) REQUIRED ACTIVITY.—Each eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use grant funds for professional development and training of relevant faculty, school administrators, teachers, and staff, in order to increase effective teaching of comprehensive sex education students.
 - (ii) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Each eligible entity receiving a grant under this section may use grant funds to—
 - (1) provide research-based training of teachers for comprehensive sex education for adolescents as a means of broadening student knowledge about issues related to human development, healthy relationships, personal skills, and sexual behavior, including abstinence, sexual health, and society and culture;
 - (2) support the dissemination of information on effective practices and research findings concerning the teaching of comprehensive sex education;
 - (3) support research on—
 - a) effective comprehensive sex education teaching practices; and
 - b) the development of assessment instruments and strategies to document—
 - c) student understanding of comprehensive sex education; and
 - d) the effects of comprehensive sex education;
 - (4) convene national conferences on comprehensive sex education, in order to effectively train teachers in the provision of comprehensive sex education; and
 - (5) develop and disseminate appropriate research-based materials to foster comprehensive sex education.
 - (iii) SUBGRANTS.—Each eligible entity receiving a grant under this section may award subgrants to nonprofit organizations that possess a demonstrated record of providing training to faculty, school administrators, teachers, and staff on comprehensive sex education to—

- (1) train teachers in comprehensive sex education;
- (2) support internet or distance learning related to comprehensive sex education;
- (3) promote rigorous academic standards and assessment techniques to guide and measure student performance in comprehensive sex education;
- (4) encourage replication of best practices and model programs to promote comprehensive sex education;
- (5) develop and disseminate effective, research-based comprehensive sex education learning materials;
- (6) develop academic courses on the pedagogy of sex education at institutions of higher education; or
- (7) convene State-based conferences to train teachers in comprehensive sex education and to identify strategies for improvement.

SECTION 6. IMPACT EVALUATION AND REPORTING.

(a) Multi-Year Evaluation.—

- (i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization with experience in conducting impact evaluations, to conduct a multi-year evaluation on the impact of the grants under sections 3, 4, and 5, and to report to Congress and the Secretary on the findings of such evaluation.
- (ii) **EVALUATION.**—The evaluation conducted under this subsection shall—
 - (1) be conducted in a manner consistent with relevant, nationally recognized professional and technical evaluation standards;
 - (2) use sound statistical methods and techniques relating to the behavioral sciences, including quasi-experimental designs, inferential statistics, and other methodologies and techniques that allow for conclusions to be reached;
 - (3) be carried out by an independent organization that has not received a grant under sections 3, 4, or 5; and
 - (4) be designed to provide information on—
 - a) output measures, such as the number of individuals served under the grant and the number of hours of instruction;
 - b) outcome measures, including measures relating to—
 - i) the knowledge that individuals participating in the grant program have gained in each of the following age and developmentally appropriate areas—
 - 1) growth and development;

- 2) ways to prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV; and
 - 3) sexual health;
 - ii) the age and developmentally appropriate skills that individuals participating in the grant program have gained regarding—
 - 1) negotiation and communication;
 - 2) decision making and goal-setting;
 - 3) interpersonal skills and healthy relationships; and
 - 4) condom use; and
 - iii) the behaviors of adolescents participating in the grant program, including data about—
 - 1) age of first intercourse;
 - 2) condom and contraceptive use at first intercourse;
 - 3) recent condom and contraceptive use;
 - 4) substance use;
 - 5) dating abuse and lifetime history of sexual assault, dating violence, bullying, harassment, stalking; and
 - 6) academic performance; and
 - c) other measures necessary to evaluate the impact of the grant program.
- (iii) **REPORT.**—Not later than 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the organization conducting the evaluation under this subsection shall prepare and submit to Congress and the Secretary an evaluation report. Such report shall be made publicly available, including on the website of the Department of Health and Human Services.
 - (1) **Secretary's Report To Congress.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for a period of 5 years, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to Congress a report on the activities to provide adolescents and young people with comprehensive sex education and pre-service and in-service teacher training funded under this Act. The Secretary's report to Congress shall include—
 - a) a statement of how grants awarded by the Secretary meet the purposes described in section 2(a); and
 - b) information about—
 - i) the number of eligible entities and institutions of higher education that are receiving grant funds;
 - ii) the specific activities supported by grant funds;

- iii) the number of adolescents served by grant programs funded
- iv) the number of young people served by grant programs funded;
- v) the number of faculty, school administrators, teachers, and staff trained; and
- vi) the status of the evaluation required under subsection (a).

SECTION 7. NONDISCRIMINATION.

- (a) Programs funded under this Act shall not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived sex, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to invalidate or limit rights, remedies, procedures, or legal standards available under any other Federal law or any law of a State or a political subdivision of a State, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.), title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18116).

SECTION 8. LIMITATION.

No Federal funds provided under this Act may be used for health education programs that—

- (a) withhold health-promoting or life-saving information about sexuality-related topics, including HIV;
- (b) are medically inaccurate
- (c) are insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of sexually active young people;
- (d) are insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of pregnant or parenting young people;
- (e) are insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of survivors of sexual abuse or assault;
- (f) are insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of youth of all physical, developmental, or mental abilities; or
- (g) are insensitive and unresponsive to individuals with varying gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations;

SECTION 9. CHANGES TO OTHER LAWS.

- (a) Amendment To The Public Health Service Act.—Section 2500 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300ee) is amended by striking subsections (b) through (d) and inserting the following:
 - (i) “(b) Contents Of Programs.—All programs of education and information receiving funds under this subchapter shall include information about the potential effects of intravenous substance abuse.”.

- (b) Amendments To The Elementary And Secondary Education Act Of 1965.—Section 8526 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7906) is amended—
- (i) by striking paragraph (3);
 - (ii) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;
 - (iii) in paragraph (4), by inserting “or” after the semicolon;
 - (iv) in paragraph (5), by striking “; or” and inserting a period; and
 - (v) by striking paragraph (6).
- (c) The National Sexual Education Reform Act of 2020 is repealed in its entirety.
- (d) THIS BILL shall be mutual with all other laws, unless conflicting, by which they are to be stricken null and void.

SECTION 10. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (a) ADOLESCENTS.—The term “adolescents” means individuals who are ages 10 through 19 at the time of commencement of participation in a program supported under this Act.
- (b) AGE AND DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE.—The term “age and developmentally appropriate” means topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular age, age group of children and adolescents, or developmental levels, based on cognitive, emotional, social, and behavioral capacity of most students at that age level.
- (c) CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS.—The term “characteristics of effective programs” means the aspects of evidence-based programs, including development, content, and implementation of such programs, that—
- (i) have been shown to be effective in terms of increasing knowledge, clarifying values and attitudes, increasing skills, and impacting upon behavior; and
 - (ii) are widely recognized by leading medical and public health agencies to be effective in changing sexual behaviors that lead to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, unintended pregnancy, and dating violence and sexual assault among young people.
- (d) COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION.—The term “comprehensive sex education” means instruction part of a comprehensive school health education approach which addresses the physical, mental, emotional, and social dimensions of human sexuality; designed to motivate and assist students to maintain and improve their sexual health, prevent disease and reduce sexual health-related risk behaviors; and enable and empower students to develop and demonstrate age and developmentally appropriate sexuality and

sexual health-related knowledge, attitudes, skills, and practices.

- (e) **CONSENT.**—The term “consent” means affirmative, conscious, and voluntary agreement to engage in interpersonal, physical, or sexual activity.
- (f) **CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE.**—The term “culturally appropriate” means materials and instruction that respond to culturally diverse individuals, families and communities in an inclusive, respectful and effective manner; including materials and instruction that are inclusive of race, ethnicity, languages, cultural background, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, and different abilities.
- (g) **EVIDENCE-BASED.**—The term “evidence-based”, when used with respect to sex education instruction means a sex education program that has been proven through rigorous evaluation to be effective in changing sexual behavior or incorporates elements of other programs that have been proven to be effective in changing sexual behavior.
- (h) **INCLUSIVE.**—The term “inclusive”, when used with respect to a sex education program, means curriculum that ensures that students from historically marginalized communities are reflected in classroom materials and lessons.
- (i) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).
- (j) **MEDICALLY ACCURATE AND COMPLETE.**—The term “medically accurate and complete”, when used with respect to a sex education program, means that—
 - (i) the information provided through the program is verified or supported by the weight of research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods and is published in peer-reviewed journals, where applicable; or
 - (ii) the program contains information that leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant expertise in the field recognize as accurate, objective, and complete; and
 - (iii) the program does not withhold information about the effectiveness and benefits of correct and consistent use of condoms and other contraceptives.
- (k) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

- (l) **SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT.**—The term “sexual development” means the lifelong process of physical, behavioral, cognitive, and emotional growth and change as it relates to an individual’s sexuality and sexual maturation, including puberty, identity development, socio-cultural influences, and sexual behaviors.
- (m) **SEXUAL ORIENTATION.**—Except with respect to section 7, the term “sexual orientation”, when used with respect to a sex education program, means an individual’s attraction, including physical or emotional, to the same or different gender.
- (n) **YOUNG PEOPLE.**—The term “young people” means individuals who are ages 10 through 24 at the time of commencement of participation in a program supported under this Act.
- (o) **THE NATIONAL SEXUAL EDUCATION REFORM ACT** — Refers to the National Sexual Education Reform Act of 2020

SECTION 11. FUNDING.

- (a) **Appropriation.**—For the purpose of carrying out Act, there is appropriated 75,000,000 for each fiscal years 2020 through 2025. Amounts appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until expended.
- (b) **Reservations Of Funds.**—
 - (i) The Secretary shall reserve 50 percent of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for the purposes of awarding grants for comprehensive sex education for adolescents under section 3.
 - (ii) The Secretary shall reserve 25 percent of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for the purposes of awarding grants for comprehensive sex education at institutes of higher education under section 4.
 - (iii) The Secretary shall reserve 20 percent of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for the purposes of awarding grants for pre-service and in-service teacher training under section 5.
 - (iv) The Secretary shall reserve 2 percent of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for the purpose of carrying out the impact evaluation and reporting required under section 6(a).
- (c) **Secretarial Responsibilities.**—The Secretary shall reserve 3 percent of amount appropriated under subsection (a) for each fiscal year for expenditures by the Secretary to provide, directly or through a competitive grant process, research, training, and technical assistance, including dissemination of research and information regarding effective and

promising practices, providing consultation and resources, and developing resources and materials to support the activities of recipients of grants. In carrying out such functions, the Secretary shall collaborate with a variety of entities that have expertise in adolescent sexual health development, education, and promotion.

- (d) Reprogramming Of Abstinence Only Until Marriage Program Funding.—The unobligated balance of funds made available to carry out section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) are hereby transferred and shall be used by the Secretary to carry out this Act. The amounts transferred and made available to carry out this Act shall remain available until expended.
- (e) Repeal Of Abstinence Only Until Marriage Program.—Section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710 et seq.) is repealed.

SECTION 12. ENACTMENT

This Act shall be enacted 3 months after its passage.

Formatted and Edited by Senator Ian (R-PA) for Congress' use.

Inspired by S.1524