

Union Calendar No.

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6914

[Report No. 118-]

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2024

Mrs. HINSON introduced the following bill

JANUARY 9, 2024

Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

JANUARY --, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 5, 2024]

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Pregnant Students’*
5 *Rights Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *Congress finds the following:*

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

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

17 (3) *Scientific evidence and personal testimonies*
18 *document that women who have abortions can be at*
19 *risk of mental health issues. Studies show that after*
20 *an abortion, women are 34 percent more likely to de-*
21 *velop anxiety disorders, 37 percent more likely to de-*
22 *velop depression, 110 percent more likely to rely on*
23 *alcohol use or abuse, 115 percent more likely to de-*
24 *velop suicidal behavior, and 220 percent more likely*
25 *to take on marijuana use or abuse. As many as 60*

1 *percent of women having an abortion experience some*
2 *level of emotional distress afterwards, with 30 percent*
3 *being classified as severe distress. Potential complica-*
4 *tions of abortions include heavy or persistent bleed-*
5 *ing, damage to cervix, abdominal pain or cramping,*
6 *scarring of uterine lining, breast cancer, future pre-*
7 *mature births or miscarriages, infection or sepsis,*
8 *placenta previa, perforation of uterus, damage to*
9 *other organs, and even death.*

10 *(4) A significant proportion of abortions in the*
11 *United States are performed on women of college age*
12 *who may be unaware of their rights to accommoda-*
13 *tion and prohibitions against discrimination due to*
14 *pregnancy under title IX of the Education Amend-*
15 *ments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) or deprived of*
16 *information about abortion alternatives.*

17 *(5) Additionally, women on college campuses*
18 *may fear institutional reprisal, loss of athletic schol-*
19 *arship, and possible negative impact on academic op-*
20 *portunities during the pregnancy and after childbirth.*

21 *(6) An academic disparity exists because of the*
22 *lack of resources, support, and notifications available*
23 *for female college students who do not wish to receive*
24 *an abortion or who carry their unborn babies 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 following:*

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

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

19 *“(2) INFORMATION CONTENT.—The information*
20 *described in this paragraph is the following:*

21 *“(A) A list of resources on campus and in*
22 *the community that exist to help a pregnant stu-*
23 *dent in carrying the baby to term and caring for*
24 *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 birth.*

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(B) *the provision of information—*

24 “(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 this
8 subsection shall be construed to authorize the Sec-
9 retary to require the dissemination of additional in-
10 formation, or establish additional rights, beyond the
11 information and rights included in this subsection.”.