

Vote “NO” on Republicans’ Bill to Keep Pregnant Students in the Dark About Their Rights

What does H.R. 6359, the *Pregnant Students’ Rights Act*, do?

H.R. 6359, the so-called *Pregnant Students’ Rights Act*, would require institutions of higher education to provide pregnant students with a limited set of resources and information regarding their rights and protections. These resources—which leave out information on contraception, abortion, pregnancy loss, and other reproductive and sexual health resources—are designed to encourage pregnant students to carry a pregnancy to term and could unduly influence students’ choices regarding their pregnancy and health.

Does H.R. 6359 create new rights or protections for pregnant students?

H.R. 6359 **does not create any new rights or protections** for students that they do not already have under *Title IX* of the *Education Amendments of 1972*, the federal civil rights law that protects students from sex discrimination in federally funded education programs or activities. Title IX protects ***all*** pregnant women and all conditions related to a pregnancy—those who carry to term, those who suffer a pregnancy loss, and those who choose to have an abortion.

In contrast, this legislation requires that institutions of higher education only notify pregnant students of their rights and protections that help them carry a pregnancy to term and care for a baby after birth. Under H.R. 6359, students who face other pregnancy-related conditions, such as pregnancy loss, do not receive notification of their right to accommodations, nor do they receive information on how to file a federal civil rights complaint if they face discrimination under Title IX.

Does H.R. 6359 provide new rights or resources that would help students afford to raise a family?

No, H.R. 5359 does not provide pregnant and parenting students with any new rights or resources that would *actually* support them, such as child care assistance or affordable health care. Additionally, if a student decides to carry a child to term, this bill will not even require basic information about how to sign up for Medicaid, SNAP, or WIC.

What would the impact of H.R. 6359 be?

Although this bill purports to educate pregnant students about their academic rights and protections, its impact is much more sinister. By requiring institutions of higher education to only share information that encourages students to carry a pregnancy to term, extreme Republicans are potentially unduly influencing a woman’s choice by keeping her in the dark about all the options and resources available to her.

Women should be able to control their own bodies, lives, and futures. ***By keeping students in the dark about the comprehensive health care choices, resources, and rights that are available to them, extreme Republicans are denying students the choice to decide what is best for themselves and their families.***