

SUPPORT THE *YOUTH ACCESS TO SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT*

On February 4, 2016, Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-NC-12) and 29 original cosponsors introduced HR 4475, the *Youth Access to Sexual Health Services Act* (YASHS—“Yass”–Act), legislation that would provide community grants to increase and improve the linkage and access of marginalized young people to sexual and reproductive health care and related services.

Youth Face Barriers Accessing Sexual Health Services

To ensure lifelong sexual health, all youth need information about, and access to, affordable, youth-friendly, and linguistically and culturally competent health care, as well as providers who respect their privacy and support them in making choices that are right for them.

Unfortunately, far too many young people in the U.S. face barriers—including stigma and discrimination, lack of knowledgeable providers, cost, transportation, and perceived lack of confidentiality—that prevent them from accessing recommended and necessary sexual health services. These barriers contribute to health challenges and disparities, as evidenced by the continued high rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and unintended pregnancy among young people.

The YASHS Act would enable our nation’s most vulnerable youth to bridge these barriers by providing communities with resources to support partnerships and programs that:

- Equip young people with medically-accurate and age-appropriate information and skills on how to access and obtain sexual health care and related services;
- Promote effective communication regarding sexual health;
- Promote and support better health, educational, and economic opportunities for young parents and families; and/or
- Train those working with youth to promote their sexual health and well-being.

The YASHS Act Seeks to Support...

- Young people of color
- Immigrant youth
- LGBTQIA youth
- Youth in foster care
- Homeless youth
- Youth in juvenile detention
- Otherwise marginalized or vulnerable young people

...access to sexual health care and related services.

The YASHS Act would ensure that NO federal funds go to programs that:

Withhold health promoting or life-saving information about sexuality-related topics; are inaccurate or ineffective, promote gender stereotypes; are insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of LGBTQ youth, sexually active youth, school-age parents, and/or survivors of sexual assault and abuse; or inconsistent with the ethical imperatives of medicine and public health.

Endorsing Organizations

30 for 30 Campaign • Advocates for Youth • AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families • The AIDS Institute • AIDS United • American Association of University Women (AAUW) • American Psychological Association • Black Women’s Health Imperative • Girls Inc. • Guttmacher Institute • HealthHIV • Healthy Teen Network • Human Rights Campaign • interACT • JWI • National Center for Lesbian Rights • National Coalition for LGBT Health • National Council of Jewish Women • National Health Law Program • National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health • National LGBTQ Task Force • National Network of Abortion Funds • Planned Parenthood Federation of America • Secular Coalition for America • Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS) • SisterSong • Union for Reform Judaism • URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity