

# The Real Education and Access for Healthy Youth Act of 2023

In the 118th Congress, Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Alma Adams (D-NC) in the US House and Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Mazie Hirono (D-HI) in the US Senate introduced the Real Education and Access for Healthy Youth Act (REAHYA), legislation that supports the health of young people by providing them with comprehensive sex education and increasing access to sexual and reproductive health care and related services.

The Real Education and Access for Healthy Youth Act combines the most important components of last Congress' Real Education for Healthy Youth Act (REHYA) and Youth Access to Sexual Health Services (YASHS) bills to ensure youth have access to the resources and health services necessary to make informed decisions about their reproductive and sexual health and future.

## Young people have a right to comprehensive and affirming sex education and reproductive health services.

- ✓ REAHYA promotes programs and services that are in compliance with current anti-discrimination policies that should extend to sex education.
- ✓ REAHYA also provides 5-year competitive grants for organizations, schools (including colleges and universities), sex educator training and delivery of health services to marginalized young people, including young BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), LGBTQ+ youth, and youth with disabilities.

## REAHYA expands quality sex education and provides young people with sexual health services that:

- ✓ Promote and uphold the rights of young people to information and services that empower them to make decisions about their bodies, health, sexuality, families, and communities in all areas of life.
- ✓ Are evidence-informed, comprehensive in scope, confidential, equitable, accessible, medically accurate and complete, age and developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and resilience-oriented.
- ✓ Provide information about the prevention, treatment, and care of pregnancy, sexually-transmitted infections, and interpersonal violence.
- ✓ Provide information about the importance of consent as a basis for healthy relationships and for autonomy in healthcare.
- ✓ Provide information on gender roles and gender discrimination.
- ✓ Provide information on the historical and current condition in which education and health systems, policies, programs, services, and practices have uniquely and adversely impacted Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and other communities of color.
- ✓ Redress inequities in the delivery of sex education and sexual health services to marginalized young people.
- ✓ Promote gender equity and inclusivity of young people with varying gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations.

**REAHYA ensures NO federal funds under this act may be used for programs or services that:**

- × Withhold health-promoting or life-saving information about sexuality-related topics.
- × Are medically inaccurate or incomplete.
- × Promote gender or racial stereotypes or are unresponsive to gender or racial inequities.
- × Fail to address the needs of sexually active young people.
- × Fail to address the needs of pregnant or parenting young people.
- × Fail to address the needs of survivors of interpersonal violence.
- × Fail to address the needs of young people of all physical, developmental, or mental abilities.
- × Fail to be inclusive of individuals with varying gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations.
- × Are inconsistent with the ethical imperatives of medicine and public health.

**Endorsing Organizations**

Advocates for Youth • AIDS Alabama • AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families • AIDS Foundation Chicago • The AIDS Institute • American Academy of HIV Medicine • American Atheists • American Humanist Association • American Public Health Association • American Sexual Health Association • The American Society for Reproductive Medicine • APLA Health • Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health • Aunt Rita's Foundation • Black AIDS Institute • Cascade AIDS Project • Catholics for Choice • Center for Biological Diversity • Center for Disability Rights • Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR) • Center for Reproductive Rights • Colorado Organizations and Individuals Responding to HIV/AIDS (CORA) • Desiree Alliance • Equality California • EyesOpenIowa • Fact Forward • Girls Inc. • Girls Inc. NH • Girls Inc. of Alameda County • Girls Inc. of Bay County • Girls Inc. of Carpinteria • Girls Inc. of Chicago • Girls Inc. of Greater Houston • Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara • Girls Inc. of Long Island

• Girls Inc. of Memphis • Girls Inc. of Metro Denver • Girls Inc. of Orange County • Girls Inc. of San Antonio • Girls Inc. of the Island City • Girls Inc. of the Valley • Girls Inc. of Wayne County • Girls Incorporated of Kingsport • Girls Incorporated of Sioux City • Girls Incorporated of Washington County MD • Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center/Girls Inc. of the Berkshires • Guttmacher Institute • Health Connected • Healthy Teen Network • HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute • Human Rights Watch • In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda • interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth • International Association of Providers of AIDS Care • Ipas • Jewish Women International • Lambda Legal • Mazzoni Center • Medical Students for Choice • Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH) • Modern Military Association of America • NARAL Pro-Choice America • NASTAD • National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) • National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network • National Center for Transgender Equality • National Coalition of STD Directors • National Council of Jewish Women • National Equality Action Team (NEAT) • National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association • National Health Law Program • National Institute for Reproductive Health • National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund • National Network of Abortion Funds • National Organization for Women • National Partnership for Women & Families • National Working Positive Coalition • North Carolina AIDS Action Network • one-n-ten • People For the American Way • PFLAG National • Physicians for Reproductive Health • Planned Parenthood Federation of America • Population Institute • Positive Women's Network-USA • Power to Decide • Prevention Access Campaign • Reframe Health and Justice • Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice • Reproductive Health Access Project • RISE: Healthy for Life • SHAPE America • SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change • Silver State Equality-Nevada • Southwest Center • Teen Health Mississippi • Treatment Action Group • Union for Reform Judaism • URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity • Whitman-Walker Institute • Women of Reform Judaism • WV FREE

## Current Sponsors & Co-Sponsors

There are currently 13 co-sponsors within the Senate and 35 within the House of Representatives for REAHYA. All sponsors:

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- Senator Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]\*
- Senator Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]\*
- Senator Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]\*
- Senator Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]\*
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