



COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION & LABOR
REPUBLICANS

COMMITTEE
STATEMENT

**Statement on the Republican Substitute to H.R. 5191
Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Republican Leader
Committee on Education and Labor
Markup of H.R. 2694, *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act* and H.R. 5191, *Runaway
and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2019*
January 14, 2020**

(As prepared for delivery)

“We have a duty to help protect American youth from the dangers homelessness presents. The legislation we are here to mark up today, the *Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2019*, should have strong bipartisan support.

However, as I mentioned earlier, Committee Republicans were denied an opportunity to engage in bipartisan talks to address the failings of this important legislation.

That is why Committee Republicans are offering alternative legislation. The Republican substitute is a strong proposal that will better help youth harmed by sexual exploitation and substance use disorder.

The Republican amendment is clear – individuals seeking help must be served, and grantees must provide or refer services to those seeking help. Additionally, grantees must follow non-discrimination laws.

If a grantee doesn’t provide the services required or give the help they are mandated to give, they cannot receive funding under this program. It’s as simple as that.

The amendment also includes responsible funding levels, which are consistent with recent funding trends. In contrast, the Democrats make promises on funding

they know to be untrue. Current appropriations have not yet hit even the authorized levels in current law, let alone the unrealistic levels included in the Democrats' legislation. By increasing the authorizations in current law, the Democrats are promising money that grantees will never see.

If we are going to be serious about putting forward good policy, it will require common sense funding authorizations. By doing so, we can also help grantees more accurately plan for available funding so they can better operate their programs.

The Republican amendment does NOT cut funding for these important programs. Committee Republicans believe that Congress owes it to the runaway and homeless youth seeking help, the grantees, and the taxpayers to be more honest about the funding that will be made available and the Republican amendment does that.

Our amendment also implements key accountability measures.

For example, grantees who are not meeting their purpose will not continue to receive grants. This language will help ensure taxpayers don't continue to fund poor performing grantees that are not meeting the requirements of the program or project as they said they would.

It also requires grantees to plan for alternative funding so youth receiving services will not be harmed if federal funding ends.

The accountability measures included in this amendment will help better serve runaway and homeless youth and protect taxpayer dollars from waste, fraud, and abuse. All of us owe a duty to American taxpayers to ensure that their hard-earned dollars are spent properly.

I wish our Democratic colleagues would have invited us to work in a bipartisan fashion on today's legislation. The Republican substitute is a reasoned and common-sense approach that will serve youth, grantees, and American taxpayers.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this amendment.”

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