

H.R. 6914, The Pregnant Students' Rights Act

Rep. Ashley Hinson



"This legislation would ensure pregnant college students know their rights and can maximize their educational opportunities." - Rep. Hinson (R-IA)

BACKGROUND

Navigating college can be difficult for pregnant students. In many cases, women feel pressured to end their pregnancies or risk academic failure, despite protections. Women should never have to choose between continuing their education or carrying their babies to full term. Rather, they should feel empowered and supported in creating the best future possible for both themselves and their child.

Under Title IX, pregnant students already have the right to stay in school, finish their education, and achieve their career goals. Unfortunately, academic disparity exists due to the lack of resources, support, and tools for pregnant students. These women may fear institutional reprisal, loss of athletic scholarships, and possible negative impacts on their academic opportunity and standing.

As a result of their isolation, pregnant students might also suffer from anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. Almost 30 percent of all abortions in the United States are performed on women of college age, according to a 2021 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

THE SOLUTION

The Pregnant Students' Rights Act:

- Amends the *Higher Education Act* to ensure all college students who are pregnant or may become pregnant know their rights and protections to carry a pregnancy to term, like modified class schedules, excused absences, and more.
- Requires universities to inform students how to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if there is a violation of Title IX protections for pregnant students.
- Ensures universities disseminate information regarding the rights and protections for pregnant students to carry a pregnancy to term through emails, student handbooks, at orientation, on publicly available websites, and at student health or counseling centers.

