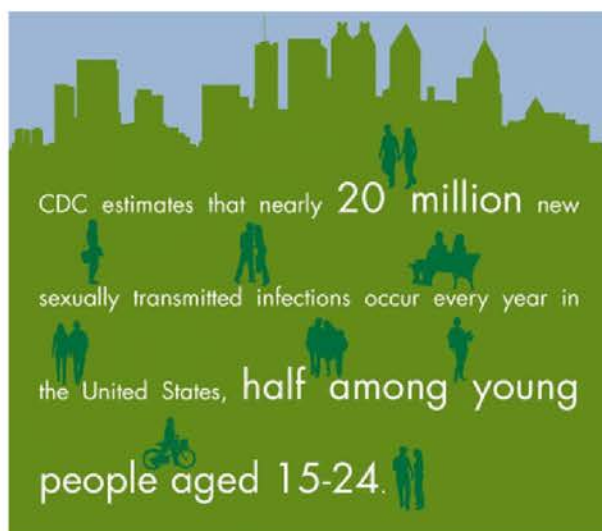


Fall 2022 LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

The Real Education and Access for Healthy Youth Act (REAHYA): S. 1689, Sen. Booker (D-NJ) and H.R. 3312, Rep. Lee (D-CA)

ASK: SOPHE Urges Congress to Swiftly Pass the Real Education and Access for Health Youth Act!



The **Society for Public Health Education** recognizes that sexuality is a natural and healthy part of development and comprises biological, sociocultural, psychological, and spiritual dimensions. Comprehensive approaches to sexuality education that educate young people in the areas of abstinence, contraception, and STI/HIV prevention are more effective at delaying the onset of sexual intercourse and increasing contraception use than those which teach abstinence as the only acceptable method of preventing STIs and unwanted pregnancies for young people.

The Problem:

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states and the District of Columbia require sex education, and when sex education is taught, 15 States do not require the content to be evidence-informed, medically accurate and complete, age and developmentally appropriate, or culturally responsive.

Additionally, many sex education programs and sexual health services are inaccessible or do not meet the needs of young people who are LGBTQ+, Black, Indigenous, or from other communities of color.

Fall 2022 LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

The Real Education and Access for Healthy Youth Act (REAHYA):

S. 1689, Sen. Booker (D-NJ) and H.R. 3312, Rep. Lee (D-CA)

The Solution: The Real Education and Access for Healthy Youth Act

REAHYA would offer the first federal grants for comprehensive sex education programs in the United States and end investments in harmful abstinence-only programs. Importantly, programs supporting abstinence are prohibited from receiving funding under the legislation. The bill provides grants for comprehensive sexual education and increases access to gender and sexuality inclusive care. The competitive grants would encourage organizations, schools, colleges, and universities to tailor services to persons of color, LGBTQ+ youth and persons with disabilities.

The grants included in this bill would be prohibited from funding programs that are discriminatory against persons with varying gender identities, gender expressions, or sexual orientations. This legislation would also require program grantees to promote gender equity and offer instruction that is inclusive of young people with varying gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations. The legislation also seeks to promote healthy relationships and aims to uphold the rights of youth to accurate information about sexual health.

Congressional Support: The Senate version of the bill, S. 1689, has 14 cosponsors while the House bill, H.R. 3312 has 87.

ASK: SOPHE Urges Congress to Swiftly Pass the Real Education and Access for Health Youth Act!

Many youth in the U.S. are living with HIV...

1 in 5 of all new HIV diagnoses are in young people aged 13–24¹

But often do not know their status...

Around **44%** of young people with HIV do not know they have the virus²

Sources:
¹CDC. Diagnoses of HIV infection in the United States and dependent areas, 2019. HIV Surveillance Report 2021:32.
²CDC. Estimated HIV incidence and prevalence in the United States, 2015–2019. HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report 2021:26(1).

