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# The Real Education for Healthy Youth Act

## The facts

Introduced in the House by Representative Barbara Lee in March 2015 and in the Senate by Senator Cory Booker in April 2016, the Real Education for Healthy Youth Act (REHYA) ensures that young people in public schools and institutions of higher education will receive the necessary information to make informed and healthy decisions about their sexual health. This legislation requires school health programs to provide medically accurate, evidence-based, and developmentally appropriate information that is responsive to the needs of all students, including LGBTQ students and survivors of sexual assault.

In other words, the Real Education for Healthy Youth Act will achieve the truly comprehensive sex-ed that is currently absent from most schools:

- ★ REHYA ensures that people receive sex-ed on important subjects like anatomy and physiology, preventing sexually transmitted infections, condom use, gender identity, sexual orientation, preventing dating violence and sexual assault, healthy relationship building, and growth and development.
- ★ REHYA requires that information is evidence based, medically accurate, and tailored to meet the developmental needs of the young people in the program.
- ★ REHYA requires all sex-ed programs to be LGBTQ inclusive.

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## Why it matters

Having open conversations about sex is necessary to achieve the happy, safe, and healthy sex lives that we all deserve. School based sex-ed programs are an ideal place to facilitate these conversations in an open and instructive manner. However, many school sex-ed programs fail to educate students about the most basic components of sex-ed, such as how to get and use condoms. Other sex-ed programs continue to teach abstinence only, provide medically inaccurate information, and fail to mention LGBTQ sexual health entirely.

Young people need comprehensive sex-ed. Multiple varieties of effective contraceptives are available across the United States, yet young people under the age of twenty five account for half of all of the sexually transmitted infections in the country. This is not surprising given that less than half of all high schools teach all the sex-ed topics recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. This is why we need REHYA.



*URGE is a national nonprofit organization that mobilizes the diverse, upcoming generation of leaders to promote and protect reproductive rights, sexual health & gender justice. Visit us at: [www.URGE.org](http://www.URGE.org)*

## What you can do

Be proactive about securing comprehensive sex-ed by letting your congress members know that you support REHYA and want them to cosponsor this bill.

If your Representative or Senator is already supporting REHYA, thank them! If they are not yet cosponsoring, contact them and urge them to do so. [Click here](#) to urge your congress members to support this influential and critical legislation.

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## Resources

Read the newest report by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention on the current bleak status of school sex-ed programs in the United States: [http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/profiles/pdf/2014/2014\\_profiles\\_report.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/profiles/pdf/2014/2014_profiles_report.pdf)



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