

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To ensure the rights of parents are honored and protected in the Nation's
public schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. LETLOW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To ensure the rights of parents are honored and protected
in the Nation's public schools.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Parents Bill of Rights
5 Act".

1 **TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE**
2 **ELEMENTARY AND SEC-**
3 **ONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF**
4 **1965**

5 **SEC. 101. STATE PLAN ASSURANCES.**

6 Section 1111(g)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary
7 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(g)(2)) is amend-
8 ed—

9 (1) in subparagraph (M), by striking “and” at
10 the end;

11 (2) in subparagraph (N), by striking the period
12 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(O) the State will ensure that each local
15 educational agency in the State posts the cur-
16 riculum for each elementary and secondary
17 school grade level on a publicly accessible
18 website of the agency or, if such agency does
19 not operate a website, widely disseminates to
20 the public such curriculum; and

21 “(P) in the case of any revisions to the
22 State’s challenging State academic standards
23 (including any revisions to the levels of achieve-
24 ment within the State’s academic achievement
25 standards), the State educational agency will

1 post to the homepage of its website, and widely
2 disseminate to the public, notice of such revi-
3 sions and a copy of such revisions, except that
4 the State educational agency shall not be re-
5 quired to submit such notice or such revisions
6 to the Secretary.”.

7 **SEC. 102. ANNUAL LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REPORT**
8 **CARDS.**

9 Section 1111(h)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(h)(2)) is amended
11 by inserting at the end the following new subparagraph—

12 “(E) BUDGET.—Each local educational
13 agency report card shall include the budget for
14 the school year for which such report card is
15 being prepared (including all revenues and ex-
16 penditures (including expenditures made to pri-
17 vate entities)) for the local educational agency
18 as a whole, and for each elementary school and
19 secondary school served by the local educational
20 agency.”.

21 **SEC. 103. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLAN ASSUR-**
22 **ANCES.**

23 Section 1112(c) of the Elementary and Secondary
24 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6312(c)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and
4 inserting a semicolon; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(8) post on a publicly accessible website of the
7 agency or, if the agency does not operate a website,
8 widely disseminate to the public, the curriculum for
9 each elementary and secondary school grade level;
10 and

11 “(9) post on a publicly accessible website of the
12 agency or, if the agency does not operate a website,
13 widely disseminate to the public, the plan for car-
14 rying out the parent engagement described in section
15 1116 and all policies and procedures that result
16 from such engagement.”.

17 **SEC. 104. PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW.**

18 Section 1112(e) of the Elementary and Secondary
19 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6312(e)) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3),
21 and (4) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (6), respec-
22 tively;

23 (2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so re-
24 designated), the following:

1 “(1) NOTICE OF RIGHTS.—A local educational
2 agency receiving funds under this part shall ensure
3 that each elementary school and secondary school
4 served by such agency posts on a publicly accessible
5 website of the school or, if the school does not oper-
6 ate a website, widely disseminates to the public, a
7 summary notice of the right of parents to informa-
8 tion about their children’s education as required
9 under this Act, which shall be in an understandable
10 format for parents and include, at minimum—

11 “(A) the right to review the curriculum of
12 their child’s school;

13 “(B) the right to know if the State alters
14 the State’s challenging State academic stand-
15 ards;

16 “(C) the right to meet with each teacher of
17 their child not less than twice during each
18 school year;

19 “(D) the right to review the budget, in-
20 cluding all revenues and expenditures, of their
21 child’s school;

22 “(E) the right to a list of the books and
23 other reading materials contained in the library
24 of their child’s school;

1 “(F) the right to address the school board
2 of the local educational agency;

3 “(G) the right to information about violent
4 activity in their child’s school; and

5 “(H) the right to information about any
6 plans to eliminate gifted and talented programs
7 in the child’s school.”;

8 (3) in paragraph (2)(B) (as redesignated by
9 paragraph (1))—

10 (A) by striking “(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMA-
11 TION.—” and inserting:

12 “(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—”;

14 (B) by redesignating clause (i) and clause
15 (ii) as subclause (I) and subclause (II), respec-
16 tively; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(ii) SCHOOL LIBRARY.—A local edu-
19 cational agency receiving funds under this
20 part shall ensure that each elementary
21 school and secondary school served by such
22 agency provides, at the beginning of each
23 school year, the parents of a child who is
24 a student in such school a list of books and
25 other reading materials available to the

1 students of such school in the school li-
2 brary.

3 “(iii) VIOLENT ACTIVITY.—A local
4 educational agency receiving funds under
5 this part shall ensure that each elementary
6 school and secondary school served by such
7 agency provides the parents of a child who
8 is a student in such school timely notifica-
9 tion of any violent activity occurring on
10 school grounds or at school-sponsored ac-
11 tivities in which one or more individuals
12 suffer injuries, except that such notifica-
13 tion shall not contain names or the grade
14 level of any students involved in the activ-
15 ity.

16 “(iv) GIFTED AND TALENTED PRO-
17 GRAMS.—A local educational agency receiv-
18 ing funds under this part shall ensure that
19 each elementary school and secondary
20 school served by such agency provides the
21 parents of a child who is a student in such
22 school timely notification of any plan to
23 eliminate gifted and talented programs in
24 such school.”; and

1 (4) by inserting after paragraph (4) (as redesignig-
2 nated by paragraph (1)) the following:

3 “(5) TRANSPARENCY.—A local educational
4 agency receiving funds under this part shall provide
5 the parents of a child who is a student in an elemen-
6 tary school or secondary school served by such agen-
7 cy—

8 “(A)(i) the opportunity to meet in-person
9 with each teacher of such child not less than
10 twice during each school year; and

11 “(ii) a notification, at the beginning of
12 each school year, of the opportunity for such
13 meetings; and

14 “(B) the opportunity to address the school
15 board of such local educational agency on issues
16 impacting the education of children in such
17 agency.”.

18 **SEC. 105. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FIRST AMENDMENT**
19 **RIGHTS.**

20 Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
21 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating section 8549C as section
23 8549D; and

24 (2) by inserting after section 8549B the fol-
25 lowing new section:

1 **“SEC. 8549C. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FIRST AMENDMENT**
2 **RIGHTS.**

3 “(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

4 “(1) Parents have a First Amendment right to
5 express their opinions of decisions made by State
6 and local education leaders.

7 “(2) States and local educational agencies
8 should empower parents to communicate regularly
9 with Federal, State, and local policymakers and edu-
10 cators regarding the education and well-being of
11 their children.

12 “(3) Transparent and cooperative relationships
13 between parents and schools have significant and
14 long-lasting positive effects on the development of
15 children.

16 “(4) Parents’ concerns over content and peda-
17 gogy deserve to be heard and fully considered by
18 school professionals.

19 “(5) Parent and other community input about
20 schools that is presented in a lawful and appropriate
21 manner should always be encouraged.

22 “(6) Educators, policymakers, and other stake-
23 holders should never seek to criminalize the lawfully
24 expressed concerns of parents about their children’s
25 education.

1 “(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the
2 Congress that the First Amendment guarantees parents
3 and other stakeholders the right to assemble and express
4 their opinions of decisions affecting their children and
5 communities, and that educators and policymakers should
6 welcome and encourage that engagement and consider
7 that feedback when making decisions.”.

8 **TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO**
9 **FERPA AND PPRA**

10 **SEC. 201. AMENDMENTS TO THE FAMILY RIGHTS AND PRI-**
11 **VACY ACT OF 1974.**

12 (a) PROHIBITION ON EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES ACT-
13 ING AS AN AGENT OF A PARENT.—Section 444 of the
14 General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (also
15 known as the “Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974”)
16 is amended by adding at the end the following:

17 “(k) PROHIBITION ON EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES
18 ACTING AS AGENT OF A PARENT.—An educational agency
19 may not act as the agent of a parent of a student in at-
20 tendance at a school served by such agency for purposes
21 of providing verifiable parental consent under the regula-
22 tions prescribed under section 1303(b) of the Children’s
23 Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C.
24 6502(b)) without providing notice and a chance for such
25 parent to opt out of the provision of such consent.”.

1 (b) PROHIBITION ON SALE OF INFORMATION FOR
2 COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.—Section 444 of the General
3 Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (also known
4 as the “Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974”), as
5 amended by this section, is further amended by adding
6 at the end the following:

7 “(l) PROHIBITION ON SALE OF INFORMATION FOR
8 COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.—No educational agency or au-
9 thorized representative of such agency may sell student
10 information for commercial or financial gain.”.

11 (c) PARENTAL CONSULTATION.—Section 444 of the
12 General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (also
13 known as the “Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974”),
14 as amended by this section, is further amended by adding
15 at the end the following:

16 “(m) PARENTAL CONSULTATION.—An educational
17 agency shall develop any privacy policy or procedure with
18 meaningful engagement by parents of students in attend-
19 ance at the schools of the agency.”.

20 **SEC. 202. PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS.**

21 (a) AVAILABILITY FOR INSPECTION BY PARENTS.—
22 Section 445(a) of the General Education Provisions Act
23 (20 U.S.C. 1232h(a)) is amended to read as follows:

24 “(a) AVAILABILITY FOR INSPECTION BY PARENTS.—
25 A local educational agency that receives funding under any

1 applicable program shall ensure that each of the following
2 shall be available for inspection by the parents or guard-
3 ians of the children in attendance at the schools of such
4 agency:

5 “(1) All instructional materials, including
6 teacher’s manuals, films, tapes, or other supple-
7 mentary material which will be used in such school
8 or in connection with any survey, analysis, or evalua-
9 tion.

10 “(2) Any books or other reading materials
11 made available to students in such school or through
12 the school library of such school.”.

13 (b) DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF LOCAL POLI-
14 CIES.—Section 445(c) of the General Education Provi-
15 sions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232h(c)) is amended—

16 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking
17 “PHYSICAL” and inserting “MEDICAL”;

18 (2) in paragraph (1)—

19 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
20 (A), by striking “in consultation with parents”
21 and inserting “in consultation with parents in
22 accordance with paragraph (2)(A)”;

23 (B) by amending subparagraph (C)(i) to
24 read as follows:

1 “(C)(i) The right of a parent of a student
2 to inspect, upon the request of the parent, any
3 instructional material used as part of the edu-
4 cational curriculum for the student, and any
5 books or other reading materials made available
6 to the student in a school served by the agency
7 or through the school library; and”;

8 (C) by amending subparagraph (D) to read
9 as follows:

10 “(D) The administration of medical exami-
11 nations or screenings that the school or agency
12 may administer to a student, including—

13 “(i) the notice to parents of such a
14 medical examination or screening, and re-
15 ceipt of consent from parents for such an
16 examination or screening; and

17 “(ii) in the event of an emergency
18 that requires a medical examination or
19 screening without time for parental notifi-
20 cation or consent, the procedure for
21 promptly notifying parents of such exam-
22 ination or screening subsequent to such ex-
23 amination or screening.”; and

24 (D) by amending subparagraph (E) to
25 read as follows:

1 “(E) The prohibition on the collection, dis-
2 closure, or use of personal information collected
3 from students for the purpose of marketing or
4 for selling that information (or otherwise pro-
5 viding that information to others for that pur-
6 pose), other than for a legitimate educational
7 purpose to improve the education of students as
8 described in paragraph (4)), and the arrange-
9 ments to protect student privacy that are pro-
10 vided by the agency in the event of such collec-
11 tion, disclosure, or use for such a legitimate
12 educational purpose.”.

13 (c) PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—Paragraph (2) of
14 section 445(c) of the General Education Provisions Act
15 (20 U.S.C. 1232h(c)) is amended—

16 (1) in the paragraph heading, by inserting
17 “CONSULTATION AND” before “NOTIFICATION”;

18 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through
19 (C) as subparagraphs (B) through (D), respectively;

20 (3) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated)—

21 (A) by amending clause (ii) to read as fol-
22 lows:

23 “(ii) offer an opportunity and clear in-
24 structions for the parent (and for purposes
25 of an activity described in subparagraph

1 (D)(i), in the case of a student of an ap-
2 propriate age, the student) to opt the stu-
3 dent out of participation in an activity de-
4 scribed in subparagraph (D); and”; and
5 (B) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(iii) in the case of an activity de-
7 scribed in subparagraph (D)(i), a descrip-
8 tion of how such activity is for a legitimate
9 educational purpose to improve the edu-
10 cation of students as described in para-
11 graph (4).”;

12 (4) by inserting before subparagraph (B) (as so
13 amended and redesignated), the following:

14 “(A) PARENTAL CONSULTATION.—The pa-
15 rental consultation required for the purpose of
16 developing and adopting policies under para-
17 graph (1) by a local educational agency shall
18 ensure that such policy is developed with mean-
19 ingful engagement by parents of students en-
20 rolled in schools served by that agency.”; and

21 (5) in subparagraph (D) (as designated by
22 paragraph (2))—

23 (A) by amending clause (i) to read as fol-
24 lows:

1 “(i) Activities involving the collection,
2 disclosure, or use of personal information
3 collected from students for a legitimate
4 educational purpose to improve the edu-
5 cation of students as described in para-
6 graph (4).”; and

7 (B) in clause (iii), by striking “physical”
8 and inserting “medical”.

9 (d) UPDATES TO EXISTING POLICIES.—Paragraph
10 (3) of section 445(c) of the General Education Provisions
11 Act (20 U.S.C. 1232h(c)) is amended to read as follows:

12 “(3) UPDATES TO EXISTING POLICIES.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
14 days after the date of enactment of the Parents
15 Bill of Rights Act, a local educational agency
16 that receives funding under any applicable pro-
17 gram shall—

18 “(i) review policies covering the re-
19 quirements of paragraph (1) as in effect on
20 the day before such date of enactment; and

21 “(ii) develop and update such policies
22 to reflect the changes made to paragraph
23 (1) by the amendments made by the Par-
24 ents Bill of Rights Act.

1 “(B) CONSULTATION AND NOTIFICA-
2 TION.—In developing and updating the policies
3 under subparagraph (A), the agency shall com-
4 ply with the consultation and notification re-
5 quirements under paragraph (2).”.

6 (e) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (4)(A) of section
7 445(c) of the General Education Provisions Act (20
8 U.S.C. 1232h(c)) is amended by amending the matter pre-
9 ceding clause (i) to read as follows:

10 “(A) EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTS OR SERV-
11 ICES.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(E), the
12 collection, disclosure, or use of personal infor-
13 mation collected from students for a legitimate
14 educational purpose to improve the education of
15 students means the exclusive purpose of devel-
16 oping, evaluating, or providing educational
17 products or services for, or to, students or
18 schools, such as the following:”.

19 (f) DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (6) of section 445(c)
20 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C.
21 1232h(c)) is amended—

22 (1) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as
23 follows:

24 “(B) MEDICAL EXAMINATION.—The term
25 ‘medical examination’ means any medical exam-

1 ination that involves the exposure of private
2 body parts, or any act during such examination
3 that includes incision, insertion, or injection
4 into the body, or a mental health or substance
5 use disorder screening, but does not include a
6 hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.”; and

7 (2) in subparagraph (E)—

8 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “or”;

9 (B) in clause (iv), by striking the period at
10 the end and inserting “; or”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(v) an email address.”.

13 (g) ENFORCEMENT AND REPORTING.—Subsection
14 (e) of section 445 of the General Education Provisions Act
15 (20 U.S.C. 1232h) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(e) ENFORCEMENT AND REPORTING.—

17 “(1) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary shall take
18 such action as the Secretary determines appropriate
19 to enforce this section, except that action to termi-
20 nate assistance provided under an applicable pro-
21 gram shall be taken only if the Secretary determines
22 that—

23 “(A) there has been a failure to comply
24 with such section; and

1 “(B) compliance with such section cannot
2 be secured by voluntary means.

3 “(2) REPORTING.—

4 “(A) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—
5 Each local educational agency that receives
6 funding under any applicable program shall—

7 “(i) without identifying any personal
8 information of a student or students, re-
9 port to the State any enforcement actions
10 or investigations carried out for the pre-
11 ceding school year to ensure compliance
12 with this section; and

13 “(ii) publish such information on its
14 website or through other public means
15 used for parental notification if the agency
16 does not have a website.

17 “(B) STATES.—A State shall provide to
18 the Secretary a report, with respect to the pre-
19 ceding school year, that includes all actions
20 local educational agencies have reported under
21 subparagraph (A), and a description of the en-
22 forcement actions the State took to ensure par-
23 ents’ rights were protected.

24 “(C) SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year
25 after the date of enactment of Parents Bill of

1 Rights Act, and annually thereafter, the Sec-
2 retary shall provide to the Committee on Edu-
3 cation and Labor of the House of Representa-
4 tives and the Committee on Health, Education,
5 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the reports
6 received under subparagraph (B) and a descrip-
7 tion of the enforcement actions taken by the
8 Secretary under this subsection to ensure full
9 compliance with this section.”.