



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, February 4, 2024

### *House Passes Bill to Support Pregnant Students on College Campuses*

“Even, maybe especially, with Roe v. Wade overturned, it feels like we are no closer to any deeper peace and justice in the United States’ long road toward recognizing the human dignity of unborn children, or offering support and care to women facing difficult or unplanned pregnancies, or helping families welcome children as a gift rather than struggle to provide for them.” (Sam Sawyer, S.J., A Reflection for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, *America Media*, 1/22/24)

On January 18, the House passed **H.R. 6914, the Pregnant Students’ Rights Act**, which will require colleges and universities to inform pregnant students of their rights and of the resources available on campus to ensure no woman feels forced to choose between motherhood and pursuing her education.

Education and the Workforce Committee Chairwoman Virginia Foxx made the following statement on the House Floor ahead of the bill’s passage: “Pursuing knowledge and having children—these are two virtues that carry immense social value and should be celebrated. I say should because, as is more often the case, modern society holds them in conflict with one another. Pregnant students should not be faced with the dilemma that their academic and future success must be sacrificed to an unplanned pregnancy. **Data show carrying a child to term does not have to hinder one’s educational journey.** As a woman who understands the strength and resilience of other women, I found it unsurprising that student mothers outperform their childless peers in the classroom. ... With more people entering college at every station of life, it is critical that we pass the Pregnant Students’ Rights Act. All students should know the rights and protections available to them, including young pregnant women.”

**H.R. 6914 is now under a motion to be reconsidered. If passed by Congress, it would:**

- Require colleges and universities to inform prospective and enrolled students on the rights and resources, including protections and accommodations, available for pregnant students while enrolled at the institution, as a condition of Title IV funding.
- Ensure universities disseminate information regarding the rights and protections for pregnant students to carry a pregnancy to term through emails, student handbooks, at orientation, on university websites, and at student health or counseling centers.
- Require universities to inform students how to file a Title IX complaint with the Department of Education or with the institution if a student believes that her Title IX rights were violated.

(Committee on Education and the Workforce, 1/18/24)

*“God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother’s womb; grant we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life.”* (Magnificat, 1/22/24)

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at [socialjustice@holycrossphl.org](mailto:socialjustice@holycrossphl.org).