

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 9218

To direct local educational agencies that receive certain Federal funds to require students in grades 9 through 12 to receive an electrocardiogram and an echocardiogram prior to participating in an athletic contest for the first time, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To direct local educational agencies that receive certain Federal funds to require students in grades 9 through 12 to receive an electrocardiogram and an echocardiogram prior to participating in an athletic contest for the first time, and for other purposes.

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 “Marcus’s Law”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING ELECTROCARDIOGRAMS AND ECHO-**
2 **CARDIOGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**
3 **PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETIC CONTESTS.**

4 (a) **ELECTROCARDIOGRAM AND ECHOCARDIOGRAM**
5 **REQUIRED.—**

6 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Beginning with school year
7 2026–2027 and in accordance with paragraph (2)
8 and subject to paragraph (3), a local educational
9 agency that receives funds under an applicable pro-
10 gram shall require students served by such agency in
11 grades 9 through 12 to receive medical screening
12 prior to participating in an athletic contest for the
13 first time.

14 (2) **PERIOD.—**A student described in paragraph
15 (1) may receive medical screening in accordance with
16 such paragraph at any point during the period—

17 (A) beginning on the date that is the first
18 day of the school year in which such student be-
19 gins grade 9; and

20 (B) ending on the date that is 1 day prior
21 to the first time such student participates in an
22 athletic contest at any point during grades 9
23 through 12.

24 (3) **PARTNERSHIPS.—**

25 (A) **IN GENERAL.—**By not later than the
26 first day of the first sports season that begins

1 after the date of the enactment of this section,
2 a local educational agency described in para-
3 graph (1) shall enter into a partnership with a
4 public or private entity to offer medical
5 screenings required under this section at a cost
6 of \$20 or less per student.

7 (B) WAIVER.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—If a local edu-
9 cational agency is unable to enter into a
10 partnership described in subparagraph (A)
11 with respect to a sports season, such agen-
12 cy shall submit to the Secretary such infor-
13 mation as the Secretary may require in
14 order to demonstrate attempts by such
15 agency to enter into such a partnership.

16 (ii) DETERMINATION.—If the Sec-
17 retary determines, based on the informa-
18 tion submitted under clause (i), that a
19 local educational agency made sufficient
20 attempts to enter into a partnership de-
21 scribed in subparagraph (A), the Secretary
22 shall waive the requirement under para-
23 graph (1) for such agency with respect to
24 the sports season described in clause (i).

1 (iii) SUBSEQUENT SPORTS SEASON.—

2 A local educational agency that receives a
3 waiver under clause (ii) shall attempt to
4 enter into a partnership described in sub-
5 paragraph (A) that begins not later than
6 the first day of the sports season imme-
7 diately following the sports season for
8 which the waiver applies.

9 (b) RELIGIOUS AND MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS.—A local
10 educational agency described in subsection (a)(1) may not
11 require medical screening with respect to any student—

12 (1) for whom such medical screening conflicts
13 with the religious tenets and practices of such stu-
14 dent or their parent; or

15 (2) who provides documentation from a physi-
16 cian describing why such student should not partici-
17 pate in such medical screening; or

18 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) APPLICABLE PROGRAM.—The term “appli-
20 cable program” has the meaning given such term in
21 section 400(c) of the General Education Provisions
22 Act (20 U.S.C. 1221(c)).

23 (2) ATHLETIC CONTEST.—The term “athletic
24 contest” means a competitive event where athletes or

1 teams compete on behalf of a secondary school, in-
2 cluding a game, match, meet, or tournament.

3 (3) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “local edu-
4 cational agency” and “parent” have the meanings
5 given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary
6 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
7 7801).

8 (4) MEDICAL SCREENING.—The term “medical
9 screening” means an electrocardiogram and echo-
10 cardiogram.

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