

Protect Black Women and Girls Act



HR 7354- Protect Black Women and Girls Act

The Bill

H.R. 7354 addresses systemic challenges faced by Black women and girls by promoting a holistic approach to justice, economic equity, and healthcare. It establishes an Interagency Task Force to assess these conditions and develop community-based, solutions.

Emotional

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of Black women report experiencing emotional stress, exacerbated by socioeconomic challenges.

Income

- Black women: \$36,608
- White women: \$46,748
- White men: \$59,644

Black women earning about 61% of white men's median income and about 78% of white women's median income.

Lived Experience

"Black girls in the U.S. experience high levels of discrimination and adversity and adopt a range of strategies to survive their trauma and maintain their well-being in oppressive systems."



Strengths

1. Promotes community-based, interventions that are specific to Black women and girls.
2. Comprehensively addresses forms of discrimination by recognizing the intersection of race and gender.
3. Uses a holistic approach that encompasses every major aspect of life.
4. Promotes social justice and racial equality.

Limitations

1. The bill's success is highly dependent on securing and maintaining federal funding.
2. Potential redundancy with existing programs if not coordinated properly.
3. Does not specify protection for LGBTQ+ families, nor does it promote sex education for their safety.
4. Needs specific measures to help single mothers.

Recommendations

1. Specify protection for all types of families and mothers (LGBTQ+).
2. Develop certain measures to provide resources and care for single mothers.
3. Expand restorative justice programs within schools and the criminal justice system.



Footnotes

1. U.S. Congress. House. Protecting Women and Black Girls Act of 2023. H.R. 7354, 118th Congress, 2nd session, introduced July 26, 2023. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/7354/text>.
2. Kaiser Family Foundation. "Five Facts About Black Women's Experiences in Health Care." KFF, March 2022. <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/five-facts-about-black-womens-experiences-in-health-care/>.
3. Goodkind, S., Brinkman, B. G., & Elliott, K. (2020). Redefining Resilience and Reframing Resistance: Empowerment Programming with Black Girls to Address Societal Inequities. Behavioral Medicine, 46(3-4), 317-329. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08964289.2020.1748864>
4. Women's Funding Network. (2020). The State of Black Women in the United States: An Historic Overview of Black Women's Economic and Social Progress. Retrieved from https://www.womensfundingnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Final_Hist_Black_Women_Report_Design_reduced.pdf