



Rep. Robyn Gabel

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1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 4442

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 4442 by replacing  
3 everything after the title and before the enacting clause with  
4 the following:

5 "WHEREAS, Research-based prevention and wellness promotion  
6 efforts that strengthen positive parenting practices and  
7 enhance a child's resilience in the face of adversity have been  
8 shown to have a significant impact on a child's mental health,  
9 physical health, and educational outcomes; and

10 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
11 define positive parenting skills as good communication,  
12 appropriate discipline, and responding to a child's physical  
13 and emotional needs; and

14 WHEREAS, Studies in the last decade have shown that  
15 well-designed programs created to promote healthy cognitive,

1 emotional, and social development can improve the prospects and  
2 quality of life of many children; and

3 WHEREAS, Parenting programs have been shown to provide  
4 critical information on child development and safety, promote  
5 positive parenting behaviors, teach effective discipline  
6 strategies, alter adverse family patterns, and reduce levels of  
7 child abuse and neglect; and

8 WHEREAS, Positive parenting practices are directly linked  
9 to adaptive behaviors in children and can buffer adverse  
10 outcomes, even amongst at-risk families; and

11 WHEREAS, While positive parenting strategies can promote  
12 adjustment and achievement, child abuse and neglect can  
13 interrupt healthy development in children and can lead to  
14 maladaptive functioning; and

15 WHEREAS, In the first major study of child abuse and  
16 neglect in 20 years, researchers with the National Academy of  
17 Sciences reported that the damaging consequences of abuse can  
18 reshape a child's brain (resulting in consequences that last  
19 throughout his or her life), influence the child's amygdala  
20 (the part of the brain that regulates emotions, particularly  
21 fear and anxiety), and change how the functioning prefrontal  
22 cortex works (the part of the brain responsible for thinking,

1 planning, reasoning, and decision-making), which can lead to  
2 behavioral and academic problems; and

3 WHEREAS, Research shows an association between child  
4 maltreatment and a broad range of social problems, including  
5 substance abuse, violence, criminal behavior, teenage  
6 pregnancy, anxiety, sexually transmitted diseases, smoking,  
7 obesity, and diabetes; and

8 WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect is a serious health  
9 problem that costs the United States \$103 billion annually,  
10 which includes \$33 billion in direct costs for foster care  
11 services, hospitalization, mental health treatment, and law  
12 enforcement and \$70 billion in indirect costs, including  
13 productivity, chronic health problems, and special education;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Nobel prize-winning economist James J. Heckman  
16 and others have shown that for every dollar devoted to the  
17 nurturing of young children, the need for greater government  
18 spending on remedial education, teenage pregnancy, and prison  
19 incarceration may be eliminated; and

20 WHEREAS, Researchers have found that, left untreated, the  
21 effects of child abuse and neglect can profoundly influence a  
22 victim's physical and mental health, emotions and impulses,

1 achievements in school, and relationships formed as a child and  
2 as an adult; and

3 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics' Psychological  
4 Maltreatment Clinical Report posits that emotional abuse is  
5 linked with mental illness, delinquency, aggression, school  
6 troubles, and lifelong relationship problems in children;  
7 these effects of ill-treatment on a child's brain and  
8 behavioral development are not static and can be reversed with  
9 quick intervention and positive changes in a child's  
10 environment; the negative changes present in a child's brain  
11 can be countered by positive brain changes that take place when  
12 the abuse ends and when the child is given the support he or  
13 she requires; parenting education is an effective way to  
14 prevent abuse and mental illness before it starts; therefore";  
15 and

16 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the  
17 following:

18 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
19 27-23.1 as follows:

20 (105 ILCS 5/27-23.1) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-23.1)

21 Sec. 27-23.1. Parenting education.

22 (a) The State Board of Education must assist each school

1 district that offers an evidence-based parenting education  
2 model. School districts may provide instruction in parenting  
3 education for grades 6 through 12 and include such instruction  
4 in the courses of study regularly taught therein. School  
5 districts may give regular school credit for satisfactory  
6 completion by the student of such courses.

7 As used in this subsection (a) ~~section~~, "parenting  
8 education" means and includes instruction in the following:

9 (1) Child growth and development, including prenatal  
10 development.

11 (2) Childbirth and child care.

12 (3) Family structure, function and management.

13 (4) Prenatal and postnatal care for mothers and  
14 infants.

15 (5) Prevention of child abuse.

16 (6) The physical, mental, emotional, social, economic  
17 and psychological aspects of interpersonal and family  
18 relationships.

19 (7) Parenting skill development.

20 The State Board of Education shall assist those districts  
21 offering parenting education instruction, upon request, in  
22 developing instructional materials, training teachers, and  
23 establishing appropriate time allotments for each of the areas  
24 included in such instruction.

25 School districts may offer parenting education courses  
26 during that period of the day which is not part of the regular

1 school day. Residents of the school district may enroll in such  
2 courses. The school board may establish fees and collect such  
3 charges as may be necessary for attendance at such courses in  
4 an amount not to exceed the per capita cost of the operation  
5 thereof, except that the board may waive all or part of such  
6 charges if it determines that the individual is indigent or  
7 that the educational needs of the individual requires his or  
8 her attendance at such courses.

9 (b) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, from  
10 appropriations made for the purposes of this Section, the State  
11 Board of Education shall implement and administer a 3-year  
12 pilot program supporting the health and wellness  
13 student-learning requirement by utilizing a unit of  
14 instruction on parenting education in participating school  
15 districts that maintain grades 9 through 12, to be determined  
16 by the participating school districts. The program is  
17 encouraged to include, but is not be limited to, instruction on  
18 (i) family structure, function, and management, (ii) the  
19 prevention of child abuse, (iii) the physical, mental,  
20 emotional, social, economic, and psychological aspects of  
21 interpersonal and family relationships, and (iv) parenting  
22 education competency development that is aligned to the social  
23 and emotional learning standards of the student's grade level.  
24 Instruction under this subsection (b) may be included in the  
25 Comprehensive Health Education Program set forth under Section  
26 3 of the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health

1 Education Act. The State Board of Education is authorized to  
2 make grants to school districts that apply to participate in  
3 the pilot program under this subsection (b). The State Board of  
4 Education shall by rule provide for the form of the application  
5 and criteria to be used and applied in selecting participating  
6 urban, suburban, and rural school districts. The provisions of  
7 this subsection (b), other than this sentence, are inoperative  
8 at the conclusion of the pilot program.

9 (Source: P.A. 84-534.)

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
11 becoming law."