



PHYSICAL Act S. 392 and H.R. 2150 Promoting Health as Youth Skills in the Classroom and Life Act Talking Points

Sponsor: Senator Tom Udall (D-NM)
Cosponsors: Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
Senator Mark Udall (D-CO)
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD)
Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)

Sponsor: Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH-11)
Cosponsors: Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH-9)
Rep. John Lewis (D-GA-5)
Rep. Donald M. Payne Jr. (D-NJ-10)
Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO-2)
Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL-24)
Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-NY-13)

The PHYSICAL Act recognizes physical education and health education as core academic subjects within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Both of these curricular areas meet the characteristics of other academic subjects, including academic content standards, instructional resources, teacher certification, grading, and student assessment. These subjects will have a significant impact on students' educational outcomes and are part of a well-rounded curriculum. The omission of physical education and health education as core academic subjects has provided justification for schools to reduce and/or eliminate these already marginalized programs.

Potential Objections:

1. This would cause additional burdens to states and school districts to implement more subjects within the school day.
 - a. **Response:** The PHYSICAL Act would not mandate that physical education and health education be required or assessed. It would only allow states to use federal funding to pay for these programs.
 - b. **Response:** It would allow full flexibility to states to use federal education funding how they see fit.
2. Education is a local control issue.
 - a. **Response:** The PHYSICAL Act would actually give more authority to states and school districts. They would be able to select how to use federal education funding across all subjects, including health education and physical education.
3. The House has passed its education bill and the Senate is unlikely to move an education bill this Congress, so why sign on to the PHYSICAL Act?
 - a. **Response:** We are hopeful that the Senate will move an education bill and that we can garner support for elevating physical education and health education to core subjects. If not, our goal will be to garner as much support as possible in both the House and Senate to demonstrate that health education and physical education as core subjects should be included in both chambers' base bills in the 114th Congress.
 - b. **Response:** Should the Senate move its bill and we are able to include health education and physical education in the final bill via an amendment, we want to demonstrate broad support in the House to insure inclusion of the PHYSICAL Act in ESEA at conference.