Teens’ survival risks, drugs, AIDS, guns due to gender ‘straitjacket’

WASHINGTON: US Sen Susan Collins (R-ME) (2nd left) and Sen Lindsey Graham (R-SC) (left) listen during a news conference on health care at Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Senators Graham, Cassidy, Heller and Johnson unveiled a proposed legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, and allow states to make changes that raise costs for people with health problems or pre-existing medical conditions.

The Graham-Cassidy bill faces major obstacles in the Senate after closed-door meetings Tuesday, but supporters contend it would provide more protection, at a much younger age than previous approaches.

"Before this study, there was a general belief that teens risk suicide, drugs, AIDS due to gender 'straitjacket'," said Blum. "This leaves girls at a greater risk, either by being rejected by the opposite sex or by rejection from society, which can lead to violence or self-harm."

"Our study shows that teen girls are more likely to be involved in violence than boys, but less likely to be involved in physical and sexual violence, child marriage, early pregnancy and early marriage," said Blum. "More unique is the fact that teen girls are more likely to be involved in violence than boys, but less likely to be involved in physical and sexual violence."

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