

FAIR PLAY FOR WOMEN ACT

Fifty years ago, the passage of Title IX transformed women's sports, with millions more women and girls competing in athletics today than there were in 1972. Despite these advances, we have not yet achieved true gender equity and fairness in sports. Participation in athletics remain unequal, with girls having over a million fewer opportunities than boys to compete in high school sports and less than half of college athletics opportunities provided for women despite women representing the majority of students at schools with intercollegiate athletic programs. Even when women and girls have the opportunity to compete, schools often provide fewer resources in the form of athletic scholarships and unequal promotion, along with worse facilities, uniforms and equipment. Meanwhile, the ways in which we hold schools accountable for failing to comply with Title IX are ineffective or incomplete – schools often misreport critical athletics data and public reporting of this data lacks meaningful transparency, non-compliance with Title IX does not carry serious consequences to ensure schools remedy issues, and athletes are not adequately informed of their rights under Title IX.

The *Fair Play for Women Act* would address ongoing issues facing women and girls in sport by:

- **Expanding reporting requirements of college and K-12 athletics data and making all information easily accessible to the public.** The bill would establish a one-stop shop for key athletics data by expanding the scope and detail of reporting requirements among colleges, extending these requirements to include athletic programs at elementary and secondary schools, and requiring the Secretary of Education to house all data on the same public website. Further, the bill requires athletic programs to certify the data they submit and report how they are claiming Title IX compliance, and requires an annual public report by the Department of Education on gender equity and Title IX compliance. These provisions will help weed out reporting tricks by programs to skirt Title IX compliance and make it easier for athletes and stakeholders to evaluate persisting gaps in athletic programs.
- **Holding athletic programs and associations more accountable for Title IX violations and inequitable treatment.** The bill would codify that intercollegiate athletic associations, including the NCAA and athletic conferences, shall not discriminate on the basis of sex. Further, it would provide a private right of action for all Title IX claims and lawsuits, making it easier for athletes to push for change at their schools. The bill would also authorize the Department of Education to levy fines on colleges that are found non-compliant with Title IX, along with requiring submission of publicly available plans to remedy violations, providing more tools to compel Title IX compliance.
- **Improving education and awareness of Title IX rights among athletes, staff, and stakeholders.** The bill would require Title IX trainings on an annual basis for all athletes, Title IX coordinators, and athletic department and athletic association staff. Further, the bill would establish a public database of all Title IX coordinators at colleges and K-12 schools, included in the one-stop shop for athletics data. These provisions will ensure all people involved with college and K-12 athletics understand what Title IX compliance means and what students' rights are under the law.