



Support Title IX work in your state! Cosponsor the Patsy T. Mink Gender Equity in Education Act of 2016.

July 14, 2016

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the over 170,000 bipartisan members and supporters of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), **I urge you to support Title IX by cosponsoring the Patsy T. Mink Gender Equity in Education Act of 2016 (GEEA).**

More than 44 years after President Nixon signed into law Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, girls and women have made great strides in education. Despite tremendous progress, however, challenges to equality in education still exist. Reports that school environments are hostile because of sexual harassment, assault, or violence have become virtually routine, with hundreds of school districts, colleges and universities under investigation for mishandling sexual assault cases.¹ Women's advancement in some areas, including computer science and engineering, has stagnated or even declined in recent years.² Pregnant and parenting students are frequently subjected to unlawful policies and practices that deter them from completing their education.³ Nearly half of all middle and high school students report being sexually harassed in school.⁴ And lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) youth and those perceived as LGBT are at an increased risk of being bullied and discriminated against in schools.⁵ These and other instances of sex discrimination affect the ability of all students—male and female—to get the most out of their education. When they cannot succeed, our country is limited in its ability to produce skilled workers for an increasingly competitive global marketplace.

To tackle sex discrimination in all areas of education, GEEA provides more resources, training and technical assistance to educational entities. GEEA establishes an Office of Gender Equity in the U.S. Department of Education to coordinate activities within the Department and among other federal agencies. Critically, GEEA supports the work of thousands of Title IX coordinators by providing annual training and competitive grants to K-12 schools, colleges, local educational agencies, or states to support their gender equity work.

GEEA is endorsed by several organizations including AAUW, Human Rights Campaign, Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN), National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE), National Women's Law Center (NWLCC), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Legal Momentum, Girls Inc., YWCA USA, Women's Sports Foundation, California Women's Law Center, Feminist Majority Foundation, National Organization for Women (NOW), National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), and more.

I urge you to cosponsor the Patsy T. Mink Gender Equity in Education Act of 2016. To become a cosponsor, please contact Jennifer Brookes in Rep. Louise Slaughter's office at (202) 225-3615 or Jennifer.Brookes@mail.house.gov. Cosponsorship and votes associated with this legislation may be scored in the *AAUW Action Fund Congressional Voting Record* for the 114th Congress. If you need additional information, feel free to contact me at 202/785-7720, or Erin Prangle, associate director of government relations, at 202/785-7730.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Maatz
Vice President for Government Relations

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- ¹ Kingkade, Tyler. (June 16, 2016). List of 195 Higher Ed Institutions Under Title IX Sexual Violence Investigations. The Huffington Post. www.documentcloud.org/documents/2861781-List-of-195-Higher-Ed-Institutions-Under-Title.html; and Kingkade, Tyler. (June 1, 2016). List of Districts that have Open Title IX Sexual Violence Investigations at the Elementary/ Secondary Level. The Huffington Post. assets.documentcloud.org/documents/2859328/82-Districts-Under-Title-IX-Sexual-Violence.pdf
- ² AAUW. (2015). *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing*. www.aauw.org/research/solving-the-equation
- ³ National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education. (2012). *Title IX at 40: Working to Ensure Gender Equity in Education*. ncwge.org/TitleIX40/Pregnant-Parenting.pdf
- ⁴ AAUW. (2011). *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment in Schools*. www.aauw.org/research/crossing-the-line
- ⁵ StopBullying.gov. (2016). "Bullying and LGBT Youth." www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/groups/lgbt