



THE DRAKE GROUP

Advancing Positive Legislative Change
In College Athletics



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Arming Enforcement Agencies with Better Tools and Female Students with Knowledge of their Title IX Rights - The Drake Group Applauds the *Fair Play for Women Act*



WESTPORT, CT: Andrew Zimbalist, President of The Drake Group, issued the following statement endorsing the [*Fair Play for Women Act*](#):

“We applaud Senator Christopher Murphy (CT-D) and Representative Alma Adams (NC-12-D) for sponsoring the Fair Play for Women Act in the U.S. Senate and House respectively. The Act would strengthen existing statutes that require colleges and universities to publicly report data demonstrating their compliance with the athletics provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and, for the first time, would extend such reporting requirements to elementary and secondary schools with athletic programs. Parents and athletes should be able to easily access such data on the internet so that there is a factual basis for demanding that their educational institutions address inequities. The Act would also correct participant counting and other inaccuracies that exist in current reporting mandates and would require more detailed financial reporting related to athletics financial aid where male athletes are more likely to be awarded larger scholarship packages on more preferential terms.”

Arming female students with knowledge of their rights and available processes to

pursue equitable treatment coupled with giving enforcement agencies more realistic tools to compel compliance are key to what has been a wholly ineffective enforcement system for Title IX compliance. Fifty years after the passage of Title IX, it is estimated that [90 percent of all athletic programs are not in compliance](#) . A [2020 Povich Center poll](#) revealed that nearly 60 percent of parents said they know “nothing at all” about Title IX athletics provisions.

Significantly, the bill addresses the need for educational institutions to conduct annual training sessions that inform school staff, athletic department employees, and college athletes of their rights under Title IX. The Act also establishes a private right of action for Title IX claims and authorizes the Department of Education to levy fines and require public reporting of plans to remedy inequities if education institutions are found to be non-compliant.

The Act’s mandate for Department of Education reports every two years coupled with better enforcement tools and public transparency of accurate data is essential if we hope to address inequities before women’s sports teams are eliminated or have alternatives to lengthy lawsuits which are incredibly expensive for parents and schools. And it shouldn’t take a repeat of the 2021 NCAA Final Four college athlete unequal treatment video gone viral to expose the ways in which governance organizations shortchange female athletes.

See [executive summary](#) here.

For the most current information on The Drake Group and college athletics related bills being considered by Congress, visit us at www.thedrakegroup.org. To access a full library of print and video educational materials on current issues in intercollegiate athletes, visit www.thedrakegroupeducationfund.org. All educational materials are available free of charge.



The Drake Group (TDG) is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization whose mission is to educate policymakers and advance legislative initiatives that foster academic integrity and athlete well being in intercollegiate athletics. The Drake Group Education Fund (TDGEF) is a new 501(c)(3) non-profit education sister organization whose mission is to ensure that the promise of college athletics is realized for all stakeholders. TDGEF produces *The Allen Sack National Symposium on Integrity in College Sports* and the *Critical Issues in College Sports Webinar Series*, conducts fact-based research on intercollegiate athletics and develops position papers and other educational materials that influence public discourse on current issues and controversies in college sport.

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