



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Fair Play for Women Act...But Still Work to Do!

## The Drake Group Applauds the 2025 "Fair Play for Women Act"



**WESTPORT, CT – February 5, 2025.**

On February 5, 2025, National Girls and Women in Sports Day, U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy (CT-D) and U.S. Representative Alma Adams (NC-12-D) introduced the ***Fair Play for Women Act*** in the 119th Congress.

Kassandra Ramsey, President of The Drake Group, issued the following statement:

***"The Drake Group applauds the Senator Murphy/Representative Adams team for stepping up to the plate to provide better Title IX compliance tools through the Fair Play for Women Act. The legislation closes significant collegiate athletics reporting loopholes and establishes long overdue K-12 reporting and training obligations. As important, the Act provides for a private right of action and civil***

**penalties as well as clearly holding athletics governance associations accountable for discriminatory treatment. This is good, common sense gender equity legislation deserving of widespread non-partisan support."**

See one page description [HERE](#).

Ramsey continued, "The Drake Group appreciates the persistence of so many in Congress who continue to work on better Title IX enforcement. However, it's important to remember that we still have work to do." The numbers say it all. The latest college data from the April 2024 General Accounting Office (GAO) audit of Title IX enforcement by the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights showed how college women are still being significantly shortchanged:

- **ninety-three percent of all intercollegiate athletic programs were not offering athletics opportunities to females proportional to their percentage in the full-time undergraduate student body;**
- **the overall athletic participation rate for females was 14 percentage points lower than their enrollment during the 2021-2022 academic year;**
- **at two-thirds of all colleges with athletic programs, the rate of females' athletics participation was at least 10 percent lower than their undergraduate female enrollment.**
- **forty percent of the colleges with these large enrollment differences had not added a new female sport over the last 14 years or had dropped one or more female sports during that period.**

See [\*\*The Drake Group's analysis and recommendations\*\*](#) regarding this GAO report, *College Athletics: Education Should Improve Its Title IX Enforcement Effort*.

ChampionWomen.com used the [\*\*Department of Education Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act database\*\*](#) to further quantify how far behind girls and women are from achieving gender equity in sport:

- **\$1.2 billion in college financial aid (athletics scholarships)**
- **540,000 high school participation opportunities**
- **225,000 college participation opportunities**

--[\*\*ChampionWomen's TitleIXSchools.com report\*\*](#)

We can do better.

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## **ANNOUNCING 2025 OFFICERS - THE DRAKE GROUP**

**PRESIDENT -- KASSANDRA RAMSEY, Esq.,**  
is the founder of The Law Office of Kassandra Ramsey, P.L.L.C., assisting entrepreneurs, athletes, entertainers, and social media influencers with creating, operating, and protecting their



businesses. Ramsey is the Sports Law Chair for the District of Columbia Bar's Arts, Media, Entertainment, and Sports Law Community and an advocate for college athletes' rights. She has written extensively on the name, image, and likeness (NIL) issue in college sports and has authored two e-books to assist current and prospective college athletes to advance their emerging NIL opportunities. She is passionate about educating athletes and their families on the ways college athletes may use these new opportunities to advance themselves for life after sports. Formerly, Ramsey served as the Compliance Assistant for the University of Maryland, College Park Athletics Department. She

received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Virginia State University and her J.D. from Howard University School of Law.

**PRESIDENT-ELECT -- KEITH ADAMS Ed.D.,**

President and Founder of the CKA SAVE Project, dedicated to empowering student-athletes. With over 30 years of experience, he is a renowned advocate for their academic and personal development. Dr. Adams holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, an M.A. in Teaching from Grand Canyon University, and a B.S. in History from Bowie State University. His dissertation examined the relationship between academic and athletic motivation among NCAA Division I student-athletes. He authored "Finding the Balance: My Personal Journey to Academic and Athletic Success." Dr. Adams began his career as a high school teacher and coach, advancing to leadership roles such as department chair and Athletic Director. His current focus is on supporting students and stakeholders in school programs. Additionally, Dr. Adams is a prolific speaker and writer on sports ethics, governance, and the educational impact of athletics.



**SECRETARY -- WENDY PIERPONT, Ed.D.,** is a

Learning Specialist at University of Oregon's Services for Student Athletes. Her professional focus is on academically underprepared students across all sports, working most intensely with freshmen who take courses in composition, education, and social sciences. Development of study skills and academic engagement is a priority for all UO athletes. Pierpont also serves as the Access Specialist in the unit and supports athletes who need accommodations and testing to get connected with accessible education on campus. She has served on University-wide and athletic department committees on diversity and inclusion and is part of the Behavioral Management Health Team, an athletic department group that works to



support the mental health and psycho-social development of athletes. Pierpont received an MA in Education (Intersection of Sport and Education) and teaching credential from U.C. Berkeley, has taught middle school Special Education and Language Arts, and coached cross country for three years before returning to Berkeley for her doctorate. Her areas of interests are academic engagement, students at risk of failure, experiential and alternative education, and student-athlete identity. Pierpont attended Boston University on a swimming scholarship and graduated with a BA in History. She also serves on the Board of Directors of The Drake Group Education Fund.

**TREASURER -- CONNEE ZOTOS, Ph.D.**, is a Senior Associate at the consulting firm Sports Management Resources. Most recently she served as the Associate Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs and Clinical Associate Professor of Sports Management in the School of Professional Studies at New York Univ. Zotos is the former Director of Athletics at Drew University where she was responsible for the administration of 18 varsity sports programs during her 14-year tenure. Prior to serving at Drew, Dr. Zotos was the Women's Athletics Director William Smith College and Philadelphia Univ. and a faculty member at the Univ. of Texas at Austin. She was a head college coach for 12 seasons and a three-time Conference Coach of the Year. She is a prolific writer and speaker in the areas of coaches' employment and compensation systems, creating tiered athletic program models, coach evaluation, and Title IX. She is a recipient of a NACWAA regional and national Athletic Administrator of the Year award and a WLCS Nike Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Zotos is a member of the Drew Univ. Athletic Hall of Fame. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Glassboro State College, a Master's from the University of Colorado and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the Univ. of Texas at Austin.



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## **DO YOU KNOW A HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE ATHLETE? Make Sure They Know Their Rights and How to Protect Them**

Not a day goes by when Drake leaders are not talking with a parent, aunt, uncle, teacher, or friend of a college athlete or high school prospect about an issue the athlete has encountered in their athletic program, during recruiting, or with an NIL collective. **SUGGESTION:** Consider [giving that athlete a student membership in The Drake Group -- \\$10](#) to invest in the development of an educated advocate who understands his or her rights to a safe and fair educational sport environment. Student members receive all of The Drake Group's press releases and analyses on current Congressional athletics issues and we promote all of [The Drake Group Education Fund](#) webinars, education programs, research reports, position statements, and a great video library on current college sport issues.

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**SHARE THESE COLLEGE SPORT CONCERNS WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES**



*The Drake Group is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization working to better educate the U.S. Congress and higher education policy-makers about critical issues in intercollegiate athletics. Visit [TheDrakeGroup.org](https://TheDrakeGroup.org) to learn more about what we do and how you can help.*

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