



THE DRAKE GROUP

Advancing Positive Legislative
Change In College Athletics



Representative Alma
Adams(NC-12-D)



Play Fair for Women Act



Senator Christopher
Murphy (CT-D)

Supporter,

At the start of each academic year, we report on the landscape of our work as an academic think tank dedicated to better educating the U.S. Congress and higher education policymakers about critical issues in intercollegiate athletics.

This report focuses on the ***Fair Play for Women Act***, a bill we endorse, worked with the sponsors to finalize, and are now asking our members to contact their congresspersons to ask for their help moving the bill out of committee and onto the floor of the House and Senate, respectively, for a vote. The same bill, **H.R. 1183** in the House and **S. 543** in the Senate, has been filed as legislation in this, the 119th Congress, a two-year session (2025 and 2026). You can **[check here to see if your U.S. Representative has already signed on as a co-sponsor](#)** and **[here to see if your senator has done so](#)**.

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, immediately 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 while clearly holding athletics governance associations accountable for discriminatory treatment. This is good, common-sense gender equity legislation that deserves widespread non-partisan support. 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 Drake Group endorsed the bill because 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; and
- 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.***

The Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act database is so important because many non-profit advocacy organizations like **ChampionWomen** use it 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**

The *Fair Play for Women Act* is asking Congress to do better by fixing flaws in the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act database, creating a replica resource for K-12 athletics programs, and mandating that our schools educate girls about their rights under Title IX.

Simply endorsing the bill via a public press release is not enough! We are asking each of our members and those who have signed up for our newsletters or attended The Drake Group Education Fund webinars to write to their Congressional Representatives to ask that they co-sponsor/support either H.R. 1183 or S.543.

Here are links and simple-to-follow instructions to find your Congresspersons and connect with them via email (or by phone if you choose), and suggested language on how you might ask them to advance the bill. It will only take you five minutes!



If you believe Drake is doing important work, we ask you to become a member, renew your membership, or make a contribution so we can continue making a difference. We are a 100 percent volunteer academic think tank operating with minimal annual expenses to assist Congressional representatives and their staffs in crafting solutions that will keep athlete

education, health, and well-being a priority. Any contribution is appreciated.

Gratefully,

Kassandra

Kassandra Ramsey, Esq.
President

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Thank you for your support. Together, we can make a difference.

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 for the purpose of ensuring that the promise of college athletics is realized for all stakeholders. Visit [The Drake Group web site](#) to volunteer or support our Congressional advocacy work.

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