



LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

Support Young Women and Girls in Sports

Cosponsor **H.R. 455, the High School Data Transparency Act**

Dear Colleague:

Since the enactment of Title IX in 1972, the number of women competing in college sports has soared by more than 600 percent while the number of high school girls competing in sports increased by over 1,000 percent. Yet despite our incredible progress over the years, we still have more work to do.

Young women in high school currently receive 1.3 million fewer opportunities to play sports than young men, and this gap is increasing. The problem stems from a lack of transparency and accountability in our high schools. Federal law requires colleges and universities to report basic information about the funding of athletic programs for men and women and the participation of men and women throughout these sports. Due in part to this public information, American women have unrivaled opportunity at the collegiate level.

Unfortunately, the basic actions required of our universities are not required of our high schools. As a result, we are seeing fewer and fewer high schools realize full equality for male and female athletes, and more young women are being denied the opportunity to realize their full potential, both on and off the field.

Olympic gold medalists have told me that Title IX – and the athletic scholarships it made possible – was the reason they were able to attend college and pursue their dreams. These Olympians have emphasized that the benefits of sports participation are not limited to their achievements on the field. Indeed, statistics show that young women thrive when they participate in sports: they are less likely to get pregnant, drop out of school, do drugs, smoke, develop mental illness, or struggle with childhood obesity, which is at an all-time high.

H.R. 455, the High School Data Transparency Act, requires that high schools report basic data on the number of female and male students in their athletic programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. This data is already collected, but not reported. Several states, including Kentucky, Georgia, and New Mexico, have already implemented similar reporting requirements at the state level, and high school athletics directors from those states tell us that it usually takes just 2-6 hours of one person's time to complete each year.

The extraordinary accomplishments we've achieved together over more than four decades of Title IX are a cause for celebration, but we must look forward and continue our steady march of progress. I urge you to help ensure that young women in high school have equal opportunities to play sports by cosponsoring H.R. 455, the High School Data Transparency Act. For more information or to become a cosponsor please contact Dan Carroll of my staff at dan.carroll@mail.house.gov or at x5-3615.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress