



August 27, 2021

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Chair Murray, and Chairman Scott:

The National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE) has been a long-time supporter of the Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) to assist the U.S. Department of Education in fully implementing Title IX to prohibit sex discrimination in education. NCWGE, established in 1975, is a non-profit coalition of over 30 diverse organizations that support gender equity in education. We request that you include GEEA's important provisions to fund Title IX Coordinators and equity allies in the \$3.5 trillion Build Back Better agenda reconciliation legislation. GEEA of 2021 is appropriately included in this human infrastructure and jobs creation legislation because of its deliberate focus on developing a National Gender Equity Infrastructure to systematically enhance the job capabilities of over 100,000 Title IX Coordinators, educators and allies to proactively eliminate sex discrimination and enforce Title IX.

GEEA was reintroduced in this Congress on Title IX's 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, June 23, 2021, as the bicameral Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act of 2021 by Senator Mazie Hirono ([S. 2186](#)) and Representative Doris Matsui ([H.R. 4097](#)). Key provisions of GEEA focus on building an effective infrastructure of required Title IX Coordinators. GEEA would also provide funding in the Department of Education (ED) for an Office for Gender Equity, which is already authorized but not implemented. In summary, GEEA provides \$800 million over 5 years to support Title IX Coordinators and their allies with training, technical assistance, and support to fully carry out their roles and responsibilities as well as other needed resources. The National Gender Equity Infrastructure would develop coordinated long-term planned activities to deliberately prevent, and, as necessary, resolve long-standing problems of sexual harassment and discrimination in education. The National Gender Equity Infrastructure would also help to build a coordinated and more effective effort to implement the important proactive prevention and enforcement provisions of Title IX.

These investments are greatly needed, especially after the backtracking on federal leadership in fighting sex discrimination by the previous administration. Under the previous administration, the Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education weakened protections against sexual harassment and assault and rescinded guidance documents on the roles and responsibilities of Title IX Coordinators and on protections against sex discrimination for LGBTQ individuals. The National Gender Equity Infrastructure and the Office for Gender Equity would focus coordinated attention on matters including restoring and strengthening these protections; addressing intersectional aspects of sex discrimination relating to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, disability status, religion, age and actual or perceived sex; and leading on emerging issues related to LGBTQ discrimination.

Congress currently has an opportunity to make significant investments in our country's National Gender Equity Infrastructure. Now is the time to make these necessary investments and provide more federal leadership in advancing gender including LGBTQ equity in our nation's Pre-K-12 and postsecondary education.

Providing resources for the activities described by GEEA would help to restore Title IX protections and lay the foundation for fully implementing this landmark civil rights law to create a more equitable society for everyone. The National Gender Equity Infrastructure would increase the number of skilled Title IX Coordinators and their allies at all levels of government and education, making sure states, school districts, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and others have the resources and support they need to address harassment and discrimination in education.

We encourage you to include these GEEA provisions in the larger Build Back Better legislation so we can make meaningful progress toward fully implementing Title IX. Given our confidence in the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to gender equity, we believe now is the time to make these investments. With these investments, Title IX Coordinators and other gender equity allies will be closer to helping our nation achieve the goal of eliminating of sex discrimination in education and ensuring Title compliance. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

For Equality,

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Cc:

Sen Mazie Hirono  
Rep. Doris Matsui  
Sen. Tammy Baldwin  
Sen. Tina Smith  
Sen. Chris Van Hollen  
Rep. Carolyn Maloney  
Rep. Rosa DeLauro  
Rep. Jackie Speier  
Rep. Jahana Hayes  
Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona  
Acting Assistant Education Secretary for Civil Rights Suzanne Goldberg  
Jennifer Klein, Co-Chair, White House Gender Policy Council