

House Rules Committee Chairwoman Louise Slaughter said that the 38th anniversary of Title IX, the historic legislation intended to equalize educational and sports opportunities for girls, is a good opportunity to do more for women's athletics. Slaughter said that her bill would force local school districts around the country to make a stronger commitment to women's athletics.

"Thirty-eight years after the President signed the Title IX bill into law, there is no excuse for girls in this country not to have the exact same opportunities to play in and excel in sports while in school," Slaughter said. "Title IX was a historic milestone but we have a long way to go. It's my hope that the House will soon consider my bill, the High School Athletics Accountability Act, which would take us closer to true equality."

Slaughter's bill 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. Currently high schools are not required to disclose any data on equity in sports, making it difficult for high schools and parents to ensure fairness in their athletics programs. Better information can help high schools and parents of schoolchildren foster fairness in athletic opportunities for girls and boys.