

H.R. 595 - High School Athletics Accountability Act of 2005

H.R. 595, The High School Athletics Accountability Act

WHY WE NEED THIS LEGISLATION

Since 1972, Title IX has advanced significant improvements in girls' access to equal education, especially in the area of athletics. In 1972, fewer than 295,000 girls competed in high school sports, compared with 3.67 million boys; whereas today, female students currently make up almost 42% of high school athletes. The Bush Administration and the courts have recently reaffirmed the importance of Title IX at all levels. Playing sports helps individuals build healthy bodies, develop skills, manage anger and anxiety, and participate effectively in teams. In addition, girls' participation in sports provides many benefits of particular importance to girls. In addition to enjoying recreation, girls who play sports are more likely to have a positive body image, abstain from using alcohol, tobacco or drugs, and avoid teenage pregnancy.

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. This bill will help high schools improve opportunities for girls in sports, and thereby encourage the participation of both girls and boys in athletics.

WHAT THIS LEGISLATION WOULD DO

The High School Athletics Accountability 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. Better information can help high schools and parents of schoolchildren foster fairness in athletic opportunities for girls and boys.

