Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2005

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On March 17, 2005, the Department of Education revised its policy on Title IX issuing the "Additional Clarification of Intercollegiate Athletics Policy: Three-Part Test - Part Three," allowing schools to rely solely on the results of a single survey, which can be administered through e-mail, to gauge women's interest in athletics and demonstrate compliance with Title IX. We are concerned that this "Clarification" significantly weakens Title IX and threatens the 33-year old law's remarkable success in opening doors for women and girls across the country. We respectfully request that you immediately withdraw this Clarification.

We strongly believe that use of a survey alone, let alone an e-mail survey, cannot accurately determine student athletic interest or ability. By allowing schools to rely exclusively on a survey, the Clarification creates a major loophole and lowers the standard for Title IX compliance, jeopardizing the number of athletic opportunities available to women and girls in schools across the country. While the Department's previous policies allowed the use of surveys in determining compliance, schools also had to look at other factors, such as input from coaches and administrators and interest in the surrounding schools and community sports leagues, which together provide a more comprehensive and accurate reflection of student interest. Under the new Clarification, the Department will allow schools to simply interpret a lack of response to the survey as evidence of lack of interest.

This harmful change, issued without public notice or opportunity for public comment, appears to be the latest in a series of deliberate attempts by your Administration to weaken Title IX.

On June 27, 2002, former Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced the establishment of the Commission on Opportunity in Athletics to "examine ways of strengthening enforcement and expanding opportunities to ensure fairness for all college athletes." This Commission made a series of negative recommendations that would have threatened Title IX, and retreated after meeting significant public opposition.

For 33 years, Title IX has taken down the 'No Girls Allowed' signs from school playing fields, shop classes, and career counseling centers. Since it was enacted in 1972, young women's participation in athletics has increased 400 percent at the college level and 800 percent in high

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

schools. Athletic opportunities have not only helped women and girls excel physically and academically but have also helped them avoid risky behaviors such as drug use and teenage pregnancy and have increased their self-esteem and confidence. Female athletes have worked tirelessly over the years to gain respect and equality, and because of their efforts, generations of young women will have an equal opportunity to succeed.

We urge you to direct the Department of Education to withdraw this new Clarification. Our nation's women and girls deserve no less.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

George Miller

Lynn C Woolsey

Robert Menendez

James E. Clyburn

Hilda L. Solis

Lois Capps

Louise M Slaughter

Rosa L. DeLauro

Peter M. Lowey

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Gene Green

Shelley Berkley

Jerrold Nadler

Carolyn B. Maloney

Peter A. Rangel

Charles B. Rangel

Jim Oberstar

Maurice Kaptur

Jim V. Gutierrez

Doris O. Matsui

Henry A. Waxman

[illegible]

Ben Cardin

Major R. Owens

Loretta Sanchez

Barbara Emanuel

Henry Cuellar

Tom Udall

Raúl M. Grijalva

Stephanie Herseth

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Jane Harman

Tim Holden

Eric Jaleonsanga

John Conyers

Bob Filner

Paulae Hooley

Maurice Hinchey

Bennie G. Thompson

Thomas J. Kean L

Rubén Hinojosa

Tom Lantos

Sandy Pearson

Charles Fattah

Bobby Scott

Corrine Brown

Sanford D. Bishop Jr

Carolyn McCarthy

Zoe Lofgren

Anne G. Eshoo

Hazel Doggett

Robert Wexler

Rob A Brady

Adam Smith

Pete Stark

Mark Udall

Fred Strickland

John Lewis

Charles A. Gonzalez

Adam B. Schiff

Harold E. Ford

Stephen F. Lynch

Mike Ross

Julia Carson

[illegible]

Diana DeGette

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Grace F. Napolitano

Carolyn C. Kilpatrick

Michael Honda

Gregory W. Meeks

Tom Allen

Jan Schakowsky

Barbara Lee

Wm. Lacy Clay

Diane E. Watson

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Ed Case

Rush Holt

[illegible]

J R Butler Jr.

Madeline Z Bordallo

[illegible]

Brian Higgins

Steve Israel

Albert R. Wynn

Shelley Berkley

[illegible] Hasler

Mike Thompson

John F. Tierney

Jim Jefferson

[illegible]

Elijah E. Cummings

Steven R. Rothman

Bill Pascrell Jr

Donald W Payne

Lane Evans

Howard L. Berman

Barney Frank

Alcee L. Hastings

Edward J. Markey

Dale E. Kildee

Peter DeFazio

Jose E. Serrano

Jim Moran

Gary L. Ackerman

Richard E. Neal

John Baldacci

Eliot L. Engel

John B. Larson

Stephanie Tubbs Jones

Linda T. Sánchez

Rush Holt

Tammy Baldwin

David Wu

Betty McCollum

Ellen Tauscher

Jim McDermott

Kendrick B. Meek

John W. Olver

Hannah Sonn

Anthony Weiner

[illegible]

Sam Farr

Danny K. Davis

Allyn Y. Schultz

John Spear

Melvin R. Watt