

# Women's Law Project

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**Women's Law Project Teams with State Sen. Connie Williams to Level the Playing Field for Boys and Girls in Middle and High Schools in Pennsylvania**  
*As nation celebrates 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Title IX new poll reveals that nearly a quarter of Americans know of a specific recent incident of gender discrimination in athletics*

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**HARRISBURG, JUNE 20** – June 23<sup>rd</sup> marks Title IX's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and today the Women's Law Project joined State Sen. Connie Williams as she unveiled legislation (S.B. 985) to address reporting requirements at the middle and high school levels.

"While Pennsylvania's colleges and universities have to report on an annual basis their athletic participation data by gender, middle and high schools are not held to the same standard," said Carol Tracy, Executive Director of the Women's Law Project. "Sen. Williams' legislation will make sure that we know what schools are shortchanging their female athletes and which ones are providing fair opportunities for all of their athletes and students."

In 1972, Title IX changed the landscape of American society. In order to receive federal funding, educational institutions across the country from kindergarten through college would have to promote gender equity in all of their programming. While the law is commonly known for advancing opportunities in women's sports, Title IX's protection extends to every aspect of academic life.

"Since the enactment of Title IX, participation in women's sports has grown exponentially because women have been given a chance to play. Female athletes are more likely than girls who do not play sports to have higher GPAs, graduate from college, and report higher self-esteem and confidence," said Terry Fromson, Managing Attorney. "The Women's Law Project is excited to be part of today's event and we are hopeful that Pennsylvania will step up to the plate and hold our middle and high schools accountable."

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A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

A recent poll reveals that nearly a quarter of Americans know of a specific recent incident of gender discrimination in athletics. The research shows that an overwhelming majority of Americans (82%) support Title IX, but nearly 60 percent would not know how to take action under the law. A coalition of groups committed to equality of opportunity, including the Women's Law Project, has launched a new Web site ([www.FairPlayNow.org](http://www.FairPlayNow.org)) designed to help students, coaches, parents and others interested in pursuing action under Title IX.

The Women's Law Project has been an instrumental advocate for Title IX in Pennsylvania. Using public education, advocacy and lawsuits that challenge gender discrimination in federally funded academic programs, the Women's Law Project has served as the voice of equal opportunity for girls and women.

For additional information on Title IX contact Terry Fromson at (215) 928-9801 or visit [www.womenslawproject.org](http://www.womenslawproject.org).

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