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## Why Sport? The Development of Sport as a Policy Issue in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a thirty-year-old policy whose implementation continues to be debated today among all three institutions of government in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Although current debates focus on gender equity in athletics, Title IX legislation as originally written did not even mention sport. Title IX states: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance” (P.L. 92-318 sec. 901). In fact, Title IX arrived on the agenda specifically to combat sex discrimination in education. In particular, those who fought for its passage focused on issues such as equal pay, tenure track opportunities, and sex bias in school texts.<sup>2</sup>

So how and when did the focus of Title IX shift from gender equity in education to gender equity in sport? What factors led to this shift? To fully understand the evolution, it is necessary to place Title IX’s development in its historical institutional context. Drawing from arguments made by historical institutionalists, this study highlights the importance of analyzing “organizational configurations rather than particular settings in isolation,” and it pays particular attention to critical junctures and long-term processes rather than simply “slices of times and short term maneuvers.”<sup>3</sup> In this case, the shift in Title IX policy that took place in 1973 can be seen as critical within the long-term historical development of this policy. During this period, Title IX’s policy community shifted its focus from education to sport, and Congress

reformulated Title IX legislation to include athletics. This is critical because the shift in focus and redefinition to athletics continued to frame the Title IX debate from that point forward.<sup>4</sup> Further, this shift occurred within an organizational context involving all three branches of government and reflected an appropriate historical context, all of which created the right timing for policy change. This article examines the institutional structures and processes, as well as the favorable political and social context, that created the proper timing and favorable conditions for Title IX's redefinition to include sport.

The literature on Title IX thus far does not provide a systemic historical institutional evaluation of its policy development. Much of the literature examines Title IX's development from a "bottom-up" approach. The evolution of Title IX from this perspective is explained largely by pressure from outside interest groups and lobbyists.<sup>5</sup> The legislation's history supports this approach to a certain extent, for interest groups did focus their arguments on gender inequity in athletics soon after Title IX's passage. The question still remains, however: Why did these groups narrow their focus from larger issues of gender discrimination in education to gender equity in athletics at that particular time? And how did this shift get translated onto the agenda within the institutions of government?

Some literature on Title IX does focus on the policy-making process. Fishel and Pottker, for instance, provide a detailed analysis of how Title IX progressed through Congress and the executive branch from 1972 to 1975.<sup>6</sup> Joseph McCarthy's analysis of Title IX extends through 1988, which includes the court's role in Title IX's policy interpretation in the 1980s.<sup>7</sup> Other accounts explain its development in relation to women's public policy issues.<sup>8</sup> In addition, there are many law review articles that focus on Title IX's judicial history.<sup>9</sup>

Scholars have also provided guidance on the proper implementation of Title IX.<sup>10</sup> For instance, in *Tilting the Playing Field: Schools, Sports, Sex, and Title IX*, Jessica Gavora contends that the executive branch has incorrectly interpreted and implemented Title IX legislation in recent years.<sup>11</sup> And in *Title IX*, Linda Jean Carpenter and R. Vivian Acosta analyze how it applies to physical education, recreational activities, and athletics and provide a full congressional, executive, and legal history and evaluation of Title IX's current status.<sup>12</sup> None of the literature to date, however, examines policy change within Title IX's larger historical institutional context. Although this article focuses on one critical change in Title IX's development, it does so from a

historical institutional perspective by examining the institutional processes, especially the relevant individuals and political and social events that came together to create the perfect timing for agenda setting and change. In turn, this early shift in Title IX's policy agenda began as a dialogue that has continued over the statute's policy meaning and application since that time in response to shifting historical conditions and factors.

The early development of Title IX underscores the crucial importance of "timing" for understanding policy change. Drawing from concepts presented by Pierson and Kingdon, this study highlights the importance of temporal context, timing, and unintended consequences.<sup>13</sup> From one perspective, "timing" can refer to the moment at which an event occurs in history. In this case, social context created a fertile environment for a shift in thinking about women's participation in athletics. "Timing" can also refer to political institutional processes that create opportunities for policy change.<sup>14</sup> At this point in Title IX's history, processes involving all three institutions of government created timely and concurrent opportunity for change. While the executive branch formulated Title IX regulations, Congress simultaneously sought to clarify its intent, and the courts created precedent on the issue of gender equity in athletics. These institutional processes created opportunities for policy dialogue and development within a social and political context energized by an increased awareness of gender equity in sport.

The history of Title IX also supports the truism that policy often develops from unintended consequences.<sup>15</sup> As Pierson argues, policy change often occurs not as the result of heated conflict and well-designed pressure from outside groups, but instead, as the result of more mundane and routine institutional processes. Although the shift in Title IX's focus to athletics came at a critical point in its history, we cannot explain this shift *simply* by looking at pressure from and conflict among outside groups. Athletics became the central issue among the institutions of government not because of overwhelming pressure from outside groups for the inclusion of athletics in Title IX policy and not because of the actions of dominant political actors, but instead because athletics arose as the primary source of contention among those groups directly affected by Title IX policy and by the institutional policy-making processes occurring at the time. Although outside groups pushed for Title IX's passage, the eventual focus on athletics occurred as an unintended consequence.<sup>16</sup>

Drawing from historical institutional theory in general, and those theories presented by scholars such as Kingdon and Pierson that stress the temporal aspects of policy change, this article analyzes Title IX's development as

part of a larger systemic historical process. This study adds to the literature theoretically by taking a cross-institutional approach by examining the institutional processes that occur simultaneously across all three branches of government to shape policy development. An overall examination of Title IX's early development reveals that its applicability to athletics arrived on the policy agenda through a complex process—the result of external group conflict along with the issue's simultaneous development and discussion among all three institutions of government within a social environment that enhanced political awareness of gender equity in sport. It grew, in effect, into a “perfect storm.”

### SOCIAL CONTEXT AND TIMING

The development of Title IX occurred within a sociopolitical environment that contributed to the right timing for institutional and policy change concerning gender equity for women in athletics. On the one hand, the social context at the time highlighted women's athletic abilities; on the other, it is important to note that Title IX would not have passed if it had been legislated much later. Key participants at the time contend that the *lack* of social and political awareness in the early 1970s helped Title IX's passage and the shift to athletics. Because of the “newness” of the issue and the uncertainty at the time as to how the feminist agenda would play out politically, the battle lines had not yet hardened. In interviews with Bernice Sandler and Margot Polivy, two women at the center of Title IX's early development, both women stressed the importance of political timing. Polivy argued specifically that 1972 was the last year of the “freebies” because the “right wing” had not focused on it yet.<sup>17</sup> At the outset, initiatives like the ERA and Title IX could thus pass without much resistance, but once Congress sent the ERA to the states, the conservative reaction congealed. Sandler, as well, pointed out that if Title IX had come any later, opponents would have figured it out and there would have been a “whole bunch” of exemptions.<sup>18</sup>

Sandler also discussed the nascent social awareness of women athletes. As one of the individuals responsible for helping to write Title IX legislation and putting together the original hearings on Discrimination Against Women in 1970, Sandler underscored the change between 1970 and 1973. She recalled that in 1972, at the time of Title IX's passage, there were five or six people who knew Title IX would cover athletics, but those individuals originally involved in getting Title IX onto the agenda had no idea of the *impact* Title IX would have on athletics. They had no real understanding of women and sport. When

Congress enacted Title IX, Sandler's sense of how Title IX would cover athletics was in terms of more activities for women on field day! According to Sandler, when Margot Polivy entered the picture, she became the link to the sports establishment. In 1970, Polivy served as an assistant to Representative Bella Abzug, but by 1973 she had become an attorney for the American Intercollegiate Athletic Association for Women (AIAW) and was one of several individuals working to incorporate athletics into Title IX policy within the context of the Education Amendments of 1974. Sandler stressed that Polivy taught "the originals" about sports for women.

In the early 1970s, female athletes also became more visible socially and politically. For instance, Billie Jean King testified in congressional hearings in 1973 and became the first female athlete to win \$100,000 in a single year. The first women ran the Boston marathon in the late 1960s and, statistically speaking, athletic participation by women increased across the board in high schools, colleges, and universities.<sup>19</sup>

Furthermore, when asked her opinion about the shift from education to athletics in Title IX's focus, Polivy stressed social pressure from the bottom up. She noted that during this time there was a series of court cases brought by fathers of athletically talented daughters at the junior high school level.<sup>20</sup> This normative shift in thinking by men about their daughters as athletes illustrated and accelerated the shift in thinking about women as athletes at the time. Polivy also argued that inequality was easier to explain visually through sport. People could understand it more easily than "sex role" stereotyping.

The environment at the time also fostered an increased awareness of women's athletic abilities. One of the most memorable events in athletics in 1973 was the "grudge" tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs.<sup>21</sup> That spring, Riggs easily beat the top-ranked woman tennis player, Margaret Court, in an exhibition match for \$10,000. King felt that she had to respond, especially since women's tennis was only just beginning to address long-existing discrimination.<sup>22</sup> Indeed, Riggs set himself up as the epitome of a confident male chauvinist. He told one news source: "Hell, we know there is no way she can beat me. She's a stronger athlete than me and she can execute various shots better than me. But when the pressure mounts and she thinks about fifty million people watching on TV, she'll fold. That's the way women are."<sup>23</sup>

The largest crowd ever to witness a tennis match (30,472 people) assembled in the Houston Astrodome to watch this "battle of the sexes," while a "Super Bowl-size TV audience" (approximately 50 million people) watched the match on television.<sup>24</sup> Unaffected by all the hoopla and Riggs's attempts to "psych" her, King took control of the match early on, and won in three straight

sets. She walked away with the \$100,000 purse as well as her share of \$200,000 in ancillary rights.

This match generated much public attention and King's decisive victory had enormous symbolic importance.<sup>25</sup> Gloria Steinem, noted feminist leader, recalled women on college campuses hanging out of their dorm windows celebrating. King summarized it best herself, saying simply, "I don't think they realized that this little tennis match was going to do this to them. It wasn't about tennis, it was about social change."<sup>26</sup> This event, which occurred in 1973, indicates the larger societal environment within which Title IX policy development occurred.

The timing is also relevant. As one news journalist indicated at the time, timing was everything. "Five years ago these superheated matches could not have happened, and five years from now they would not mean anything. But Riggs, properly overaged and frivolous, came along at the confluence of two phenomena: the rise of Women's Lib and the country's need, more desperate than ever, to be entertained. Watergate, inflation, shortages—the catalogue of ills is dispiriting to contemplate. Some buffoonery and sex offer a welcome change."<sup>27</sup> The shift in Title IX policy to incorporate athletics fits well within the social context that was shifting its perspective on women in sport.

Female athletes at this time also began to challenge negative stereotypes about women in athletic competition. Throughout much of the twentieth century, social and medical authorities impressed upon women that sports would cause "women problems" such as infertility.<sup>28</sup> Olympic Skier Suzy Chaffee, for instance, had been discouraged from competition by the head ski coach at Denver University because "it was bad for the ovaries."<sup>29</sup> One of the first women to run a marathon, Katherine Switzer, also cited the myth that if women ran they would never have babies or attract men.<sup>30</sup> She officially entered the Boston Marathon in 1967, but did so by using only her initials on the application.<sup>31</sup> Come the day of the race, as she ran alongside her boyfriend and her coach from the Syracuse Cross Country team, a truck carrying marathon officials pulled alongside her. After being egged on by the media, the marathon's head official, Jock Semple, jumped off the truck and attempted to tear the official entry numbers off her jersey, all the while yelling at her to get out of *his* race.<sup>32</sup> Switzer finished the race in a little over four hours, but only with the help of her fellow male track team members and coach, who surrounded her and prevented race officials from pushing her off the course.<sup>33</sup> Not until four years later, in 1971, did the New York City Marathon become the first to officially include a women's division.

Also in the early 1970s, pathbreaking articles began to appear in popular journals and newspapers discussing the change in women's athletics.<sup>34</sup> As an example, in July 1972, the *New York Times* included a large article, with multiple pictures, entitled "For-Men-Only Barrier in Athletics is Teetering."<sup>35</sup> The article discussed the rising participation of women in athletics and cited examples from a range of sports, including riflery, horse jockeying, crew, marathon running, skiing, football, baseball, and hockey. The article described how, in 1972, Mrs. Bernice Gera won a six-year legal battle for the right to become professional baseball's first woman umpire. And it discussed the existence at the time of an all-woman pro football league that had teams in New York, Detroit, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh and an all-girl hockey league in Boston. Most important, this article conveyed to the public that it was normal for women to engage in athletic competition. "If competitive athletics have valid, positive contributions to make for males," observed one male women's track coach, "why shouldn't athletics do the same thing for females?"<sup>36</sup>

*Sports Illustrated* (a magazine with a predominantly male readership) also drew attention to gender inequity in athletics. A three-part series in 1973 highlighted the unequal opportunities for women in sport. One article demonstrated the gross inequity in expenditure and quality of women's versus men's programs. A second disproved the commonly accepted belief that sports were risky and inessential for girls. The third article entitled, "Women in Sport—Programmed to be Losers," argued that limiting girls' access to athletic competition may turn them into underachievers, because without athletics they missed the values of aggressiveness and winning that boys experience.

Also noteworthy was the change in media coverage after Title IX. The articles that appeared in *Sports Illustrated* in 1970–71 conveyed a very different view of women's role in sport than the 1973 series. These articles depicted female athletes more in terms of their appearance than their athletic skill. One author and coach of a girls' high school basketball team wrote of one comely athlete: "She went up high and she had the best looking legs of any basketball player I had ever seen." Indeed, "they're the prettiest basketball players I've ever seen ... and two of them can make layups."<sup>37</sup> Another article on the 1971 U.S. Girls' Junior Golf Championship described the athletes thus: "She had one of the most confident walks ever seen, her perfectly tanned, well-formed legs swinging jauntily."<sup>38</sup> The articles published in 1973 called attention to the benefits of athletics for women and the entrenched inequities that prevented women from attaining these benefits rather than their appearance while playing.

From the late 1960s through the early 1970s, the time period within which Title IX's policy community formulated and defined Title IX to include sport, evidence suggests that a normative shift began to take place in larger society. Popular articles focused on women as athletes and on the issues of equal opportunity for women in sport. Billie Jean King beat Bobby Riggs, a man, in a highly publicized media event. Women fought to become official entrants in marathon races with the help and support of their male counterparts. And fathers brought legal action on behalf of their daughters' rights to play sports. Politically the timing was also perfect because the opposition to gender-equity issues was not yet well formed. Title IX's policy community thus addressed gender equity in athletics within an expanded and inviting social context.

#### INTEREST-GROUP CONFLICT, UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES, AND EXECUTIVE PROCEDURE

Unlike the initial push for Title IX, athletics arose on the agenda as an unintended consequence of the interest-group conflict surrounding Title IX's passage through the regulatory institutional processes.<sup>39</sup> On one level, focus turned to athletics primarily because of those groups fighting against Title IX. Those opposed to Title IX, such as the NCAA and the American Football Coaches Association, drew attention to an issue that the women's groups originally fighting for Title IX had ignored. Also relevant were the institutional processes through which Title IX progressed at the time. Athletics emerged as the primary issue of contention as the executive branch began writing regulations. And letters written to congressional members at the time focused on Title IX's projected impact on athletics. Evidence of external group pressures clearly illustrate that athletics became the primary source of contention during the regulation-writing process, and that those who had fought so hard for Title IX as originally legislated would not have targeted athletics if their opponents had not deliberately drawn attention to the issue.

Although female coaches and other women involved in the sports establishment experienced discrimination, they had no connection with those feminists in Washington fighting for Title IX.<sup>40</sup> As an example, six months before Title IX's passage, the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) formed in a bid to govern women's intercollegiate athletics. The NCAA responded almost immediately by competing directly with the AIAW for control of women's intercollegiate athletics. The NCAA also lobbied both the Congress and the executive branch to exclude athletics from Title IX regulations. The NCAA's actions produced an unintended consequence by



raising the AIAW's awareness of the political potential for Title IX to further women's opportunities in athletics. As Mary Jo Festle has noted, however uncertain "women in PE" felt about Title IX, "the more they discovered how strenuously men in sports opposed equality, the more clear it became how important Title IX could become." As the male sports establishment claimed with increasing stridency (especially to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare) that "equality would mean the end of intercollegiate sport," the AIAW pushed back. In short, men's opposition caused "AIAW women into taking a strong position in favor of the regulations sooner than they otherwise might have."<sup>41</sup>

At first the AIAW feared that if Title IX mandated absolute equality, it would not allow women's sports to maintain separate rules and more gender-defined ways of playing sport.<sup>42</sup> Athletics thus became the focal point—not because there was overwhelming pressure from the outside that demanded gender equity in sport, but because it emerged as the primary issue of contention within Title IX's policy community. As Martha Derthick states, "The absence of conflict ... does not signify the absence of change, and what is routine, though it may not be interesting to analysts at a given moment, is cumulatively important."<sup>43</sup> Gender equity in sport, not gender equity in the classroom, morphed into the hot-button issue as Title IX progressed through the normal institutional processes, an unintended consequence of normal policy processes.

As the executive branch formulated Title IX's regulations, input from outside sources filtered to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (DHEW) from a variety of sources, including other executive departments as well as Congress. The DHEW received much of this input prior to the official release of Title IX's proposed regulations in June 1974. Interest groups and interested individuals thus initially responded to "leaks" about the developing regulations through means other than the formal public comment period.

The NCAA became the key outside group that received and acted on preliminary information about the developing regulations. In a memorandum to President Nixon, Secretary of Education Caspar Weinberger indicated that "considerable controversy" had engulfed "sex discrimination in collegiate athletics" because the NCAA had misinterpreted "an early, preliminary draft of the proposed Title IX regulations, which unfortunately was leaked to the public mid-winter."<sup>44</sup> Mistakenly thinking that the draft required equal expenditures for male and female competitive athletic programs, the NCAA proposed language to exempt revenue-producing sports, such as football and basketball, from Title IX's requirements.<sup>45</sup>

Congressional members also forwarded constituents' letters to President Nixon concerning Title IX's regulations. "I have already heard from close personal friends of mine expressing their foresight and concern over these proposed regulations," Olin Teague (R-Tex.) wrote to Nixon, arguing that "these regulations will generate unnecessary problems and present havoc for collegiate and intercollegiate athletics."<sup>46</sup> In one letter to Teague, Warwick Jenkins, a lawyer for concerned administrators and faculty at Baylor University, charged that HEW was drafting regulations in "such a manner as to virtually destroy intercollegiate athletics and seriously impair priorities in intramural athletics."<sup>47</sup> His critique of the regulations focused on equal expenditures. Notwithstanding "some disparity between the expenditures for women's athletics and those for men's," Jenkins claimed that "this is really not a woman's field and it seems to me that judging on the basis of numbers and other contributions is really not the test in the field of athletics, and particularly in intercollegiate athletics."<sup>48</sup> Jenkins based his analysis on information received from Robert C. James, chairman of the NCAA Legislative Committee. Jenkins enclosed an evaluation of the regulations by James in his letter to Teague. The exchange of letters between Teague, his constituents, and President Nixon illustrate the key role of the NCAA in framing the debate over Title IX's proposed regulations. Such letters indicate that outside interest groups were able to access internal information prior to its official public release, and thereby attempt to have an impact on policy development outside the formal policy-making process. Regular institutional processes (the open comment period) provided the opportunity for policy change, while extra formal processes, leaks, and misinterpretations led to a focus on athletic funding, which in turn framed the debate.

Individuals and women's groups in favor of athletics under Title IX regulations also found the means to respond. Aside from working with congressional members supportive of women's interests in education, such as Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii) and Edith Green (D-Ore.), many of these individuals and groups accessed the process through appropriately positioned bureaucrats in the administration. As Kingdon discusses, "hidden participants" in the process often shape policy outcome from behind the scenes.<sup>49</sup> For instance, in March 1974, Anne Armstrong, Counselor to President Nixon, passed on three letters addressed to the president that indicated a well-developed opposition to the NCAA's position. In his response to Armstrong, Weinberger noted a "great deal of comment, much of it from women college athletic instructors, urging the Department to retain an athletic section in the draft regulation. On the other hand, many male college athletic directors have commented in support of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's position that the

section should not be included.”<sup>50</sup> Without judging the merits, Weinberger acknowledged the developing dispute between men’s and women’s groups and the issue of Title IX and athletics.

Vera Hirschberg, director of Women’s Programs for the Nixon administration, also heard from citizens concerned about “the implications for physical education and athletics of the regulations to implement Title IX.”<sup>51</sup> Much input came from women’s athletic directors. For instance, in March 1974, in response to Penelope C. Hinckley, dean in the Department of Athletics and Physical Education at Princeton University, regarding the implications of the proposed regulations for intercollegiate athletics, Hirschberg assured Hinckley that her office had been working closely with the appropriate individuals in the Office of Civil Rights to make the regulations equitable.<sup>52</sup> Interested individuals and interest groups thus found ways to provide input in the regulation-writing process even before regulations were released, and the conflict among these groups riveted the policy community’s attention on Title IX’s application to athletics.

When DHEW released its proposed regulations in June 1974, Weinberger announced a four-month comment period, lasting through October 15, 1974, rather than the standard thirty days. This would allow ample time for public consideration of the issue and give educators and school officials an opportunity to prepare comments after schools reopened.<sup>53</sup> DHEW thereupon received an unprecedented 9,700 comments concerning Title IX’s regulations.<sup>54</sup> As two scholars note, “over 90 percent of those comments related to the application of Title IX to athletics,” even though “less than 10 percent of the regulations deal directly with athletics, physical education, recreation or sports.”<sup>55</sup> It had become glaringly apparent that gender equity in athletics had emerged as the most controversial issue.<sup>56</sup>

In December 1974, Weinberger received a series of questions about the proposed regulations from Kenneth Cole, assistant to the president for Domestic Affairs. In his response, Weinberger noted that Title IX’s application to competitive intercollegiate athletics was “the single most controversial issue in the Title IX regulation based upon public and Congressional interest.”<sup>57</sup> And again, when the DHEW released its final regulations to the public in June 1975, Weinberger identified athletics as “certainly the most talked about issue.”<sup>58</sup> And in a memorandum written to the president in February 1975 concerning Title IX’s final regulations, Weinberger once again reiterated that “although certainly not the most important educational subject under Title IX, this issue has raised the most public controversy and involves some of the most difficult policy and legal points.”<sup>59</sup>

In another example, in January 1975, the White House Office held an informational meeting and discussion with outside groups that focused on education programs in the HEW with a particular emphasis on women's programs.<sup>60</sup> Weinberger, the first speaker, reviewed many of the department's programs and then fielded questions from the audience. Mary Allen, president of the Intercollegiate Association of Women Students, immediately asked: "What position will HEW take on comments regarding the impact of the Title IX regulations on athletics? I think this issue is the one over which the largest battle has and will take place."<sup>61</sup> Weinberger agreed. "I think you are right that this is the largest battle."<sup>62</sup> Thus, according to public response, congressional input, and executive evaluation, athletics was the most controversial issue, thus requiring a "timely" policy response regarding gender equity in athletics within the institutions of government.

The debate among groups outside the institutions of government, however, did not provide a clear indication of what the public wanted.<sup>63</sup> The DHEW thus had to weigh in with its own policy response. Public input may have focused the agenda, but individual and institutional incentives and resources within the executive agencies involved ultimately determined policy formulation and direction. Further, because Congress had not provided a clear indication of its intent, the executive branch had more leeway for its own evaluation and response.

For instance, in a memorandum written in March 1974 from Weinberger to the president,<sup>64</sup> Weinberger outlined the DHEW's proposed regulation and then argued for its superiority in comparison to the NCAA's position. The NCAA then put forth its position in the Tower amendment in June 1974, which proposed to exempt revenue-producing sport from Title IX regulations. Weinberger predicted that women's groups would be displeased with the DHEW's compromise proposal. Although the DHEW was required under Title IX statute to cover activities conducted by recipients of federal financial assistance, the "proposed regulation has been drafted in such a way as to minimize the impact on existing competitive athletic programs, because to do otherwise would in [his] opinion create a serious backlash against women's rights."<sup>65</sup> The proposed regulation allowed educational institutions to provide separate competitive athletic teams for males and females, required schools to provide opportunities for women and men in competitive athletics based on their expressed *interest* in participating, and specifically did *not* require equal aggregate expenditures for athletics for both sexes.<sup>66</sup>

Weinberger believed that the department's plan leaned toward the NCAA's position. Although it acknowledged that "the enforcement of Title IX

statute [would] necessarily bring about some changes in the existing pattern of intercollegiate athletics,” it also minimized these changes to the extent that the law permitted them to do so.<sup>67</sup> For this reason, Weinberger predicted that numerous women’s groups would attack the HEW’s proposed regulations for not going far enough.

Other institutional factors and political events also helped create the appropriate timing for Title IX’s policy community to focus its attention on athletics as a component of gender inequity in education. In the executive arena, an awareness of Title IX’s impending passage and a lack of a clear congressional directive created incentive to evaluate Title IX’s application to athletics. The executive branch’s need to formulate regulations for Title IX opened a policy window for discussion of athletics as an element of gender equity in education. By the time Congress passed Title IX and handed the executive the task of formulating regulations, the executive branch had already evaluated the issue within the relevant agencies.

The Office of Education (OE) (the agency in charge of education before the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare) took early steps in anticipation of Title IX’s passage. In fact, OE had defined athletics and physical education as part of educational equity well in advance of the official regulation-writing process and well before 1974, when Congress amended the Title IX statute to include athletics. In May 1972, the Commissioner of Education, Sidney P. Marland Jr., established a twelve-member Task Force on the Impact of OE Programs on Women in response to the “rising public concern about discrimination against women in education” and for the purpose of investigating the impact of Office of Education programs on women.<sup>68</sup> The ensuing *Report of the Commissioner’s Task Force on the Impact of Office of Education Programs on Women* included a key paragraph on athletics as evidence of sex bias within the education system in 1972.<sup>69</sup> The report found that girls, at the time, got “short shrift” in physical education because “schools and colleges devoted greater resources to boys’ than to girls’ athletics: in facilities, coaches, equipment and interscholastic competition.”<sup>70</sup> It also made the connection between physical fitness and education. “Schools sponsor physical education and extramural sports because educators recognize the importance of the life long habits of physical fitness.”<sup>71</sup> The report acknowledged the importance of these habits for women, “as workers and mothers,” as well as for men.<sup>72</sup> Its release in November 1972, just five months after Title IX’s passage, demonstrates that at least one agency had acknowledged athletics as a part of public education well before Congress gave any other clear indication of congressional intent on Title IX’s application to athletics.<sup>73</sup> Despite no suggestions for agency

action on athletics in education, the acknowledgment of sex bias in education and athletics indicates problem recognition in the executive arena.

In the executive arena, therefore, the need for Title IX regulations created the opportunity for policy development. Even before Title IX's passage in 1972, in preparation for the regulation-writing process, the Office of Education evaluated the impact of OE programs on women. The open comment period in 1974 provided an institutional political event that opened a policy window in the executive arena. These events provide two examples of how executive procedures helped create the proper timing for Title IX's policy focus to shift to gender equity in athletics.

### CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURE

Within the same time frame, congressional procedures also created opportunity for policy redefinition. As the executive arena proposed regulations, those in the congressional arena found ways to voice their opinions and clarify legislative intent. In particular, the impending expiration of the Educational and Secondary Education Act of 1965 provided the opportunity for creating the Education Amendments of 1974, which in turn prompted further congressional discussion of Title IX policy and offered a forum for communicating with the executive arena regarding regulations.

In 1974, the House and Senate both proposed bills (H.R. 69 and S. 1539) to amend and extend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. These bills and their related hearings provided a window for Congress to clarify legislative intent concerning education and athletics.<sup>74</sup> Congress cleared the resulting conference report on July 31, and President Ford signed it into law on August 21, 1974.<sup>75</sup> This law, known as The Educational Amendments of 1974, included two sections pertaining to sex discrimination in athletics.

The first section relevant to sex discrimination in athletics fell under Title IV, Section 408, which concerned the consolidation of certain education programs. Section 408, entitled "Women's Educational Equity," was one of seven new programs to be funded.<sup>76</sup> The program was directly related to Title IX in that it provided the Commissioner of Education with the means to implement activities designed to provide educational equity for women. Its relevance to Title IX policy on athletics became readily apparent in the legislative hearings held on this act, which included witnesses who testified to the importance of athletics as a component of an individual's educational experience.<sup>77</sup>

The second provision relating to sex discrimination was Section 844, under Title VIII, “Miscellaneous Provisions.” It declared that “the Secretary shall prepare and publish not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Act, proposed regulations implementing the provision of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 relating to the prohibition of sex discrimination in federally assisted education programs which shall include with respect to intercollegiate athletic activities reasonable provisions considering the nature of particular sports.”<sup>78</sup> This section, known as the Javits amendment, specifically addressed the need for the completion of Title IX regulations and provisions for athletic activities within those regulations. The other branches of government would later refer to the Javits amendment as evidence of congressional intent concerning Title IX and gender equity in sport.

### WOMEN’S EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ACT

The development and passage of the Women’s Education Equity Act largely resulted from individual and interest-group efforts. Arlene Horowitz, a clerical worker for the Education and Labor Committee in the House of Representatives, had the idea for the bill and authored the first draft.<sup>79</sup> Like Bernice Sandler, whose personal frustrations led to Title IX legislation, Horowitz’s restiveness with her own employment motivated her to consider political action.<sup>80</sup> She believed that her job made inadequate use of her education and political experience, and she blamed societal sex-role stereotyping for placing women like herself in such inferior positions. Having attended seminars on women’s issues and holding a position in the government that exposed her to numerous education bills aimed at specific issues, she thought in terms of a bill that would change attitudes about women in society by focusing on curriculum development in elementary and secondary schools.<sup>81</sup> In this case, Arlene Horowitz’s involvement highlights the importance of “hidden participants” in the development of public policy.<sup>82</sup> As a committee staff member, Horowitz had personal access to individuals directly tied to the agenda-setting process and thus the potential to make her voice heard.

Horowitz eventually contacted Bernice Sandler, a leader in the Women’s Equity Action League (WEAL) and a central figure in the Title IX policy community. As Sandler recalled, she and Horowitz met for lunch one day; they bought sandwiches and sat on a bench on the Capitol grounds and talked at length about Horowitz’s idea for her bill.<sup>83</sup> Sandler thought the idea was a long shot—in her own words, “crazy,” but she put Horowitz in touch with other interested women within the Women’s Equity Action League; these

women soon developed a second draft and found an appropriate congressional sponsor. They chose Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii) for several reasons. Although not considered a feminist, Mink was both a woman and senior ranking member on the Education Subcommittee in the House of Representatives, where the bill would most likely be referred after its introduction. Horowitz also knew her because the Education Subcommittee on which Mink served was chaired by John Brademas (D-Ind.), for which Horowitz was a staff assistant. Receptive to the idea, Mink proposed hearings on educational discrimination against women and girls in order to establish on record a clear need for the bill.

The first time Patsy Mink introduced the Women's Education Act (H.R. 14451) on April 18, 1972, it died as expected because she had introduced it too close to the end of the 92nd Congress. Her intent, however, had been to launch a trial balloon to receive some preliminary feedback.<sup>84</sup> As a result, the bill came to the attention of Senator Walter Mondale (D-Minn.), who asked Mink if he could sponsor the bill in the Senate.<sup>85</sup> According to Horowitz, it was Arlene Fraser, an active member of WEAL and the wife of Representative Don Fraser (D-Minn.), who knew the Mondales personally and drew his attention to the bill.<sup>86</sup> Senator Mondale seemed a good fit as a member of the Senate Education Subcommittee, which would most likely have to approve the bill.

On the first day of the 93rd Congress in January 1973, Patsy Mink reintroduced her bill with some modifications. As renamed, the Women's Educational Equity Act of 1973 (H.R. 208) sought "to authorize the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to make grants to conduct special educational programs and activities designed to achieve educational equity for all students, men and women, and for other related educational purposes."<sup>87</sup> Subsequently, the bill was referred to the Education and Labor Committee, which referred it to the Subcommittee on Equal Opportunities, of which Mink was a member.<sup>88</sup> The chair of this subcommittee, Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.), assured Mink that the bill would receive attention if requested. Mink requested two days of hearings in July and two days in September. Senator Mondale requested hearings to be held in the Senate Subcommittee on Education of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare in October and November 1973. Both hearings elicited significant testimony.

The July hearings in the House invited witnesses from twelve organizations representing a broad range of the national women's and education groups in the country, such as WEAL, the National Women's Political Caucus, the Council for University Women's Progress, and the National Foundation



for the Improvement of Education. Many of these groups discussed gender equity in athletics as a relevant topic.<sup>89</sup> For example, Arvonne Fraser, president of the Women's Equity Action League, described sex discrimination in athletics as "the area where sex discrimination is most pervasive and most readily apparent."<sup>90</sup> As evidence, she noted the unequal per capita expenditures on athletic activities by sex, unequal access to facilities, lack of coaches for women's activities, and discouraging attitudes concerning women's participation in athletics.<sup>91</sup>

Senator Mondale introduced the Women's Educational Equity Act in the Senate on October 2, 1973, as "a logical complement to Title IX."<sup>92</sup> The Senate Subcommittee on Education of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare held hearings on S. 2518 in October and November 1973. In particular, Billie Jean King's testimony in November drew considerable attention.<sup>93</sup> Senator Mondale had been the only senator to show up in October, but when King testified, five senators attended and her appearance made the national news. This meant favorable publicity for the bill and added focus on the issue of women in sport. According to Sandler, King's testimony definitely had the right impact. It drew attention to WEEA, which passed relatively quickly. Just as important as having five senators in attendance was the increased number of staffers in attendance. Sandler contends that staff members in attendance drew attention to WEEA, which, for a smaller bill, passed relatively quickly.<sup>94</sup> Staffers do not dictate but certainly provide cues to their senators and representatives to pay attention to certain issues. Senator Mondale's staff, in fact, orchestrated the tennis star's appearance. Ellen Hoffman, a member of Mondale's staff, was in charge of putting together the hearings.<sup>95</sup> As Hoffman recalled, Mondale and his staff asked King to testify to draw attention to the issue and stimulate support from both the grass roots and within Congress.<sup>96</sup>

King's star quality propagandized the benefit of athletics for women. Her testimony stressed the benefits of athletic involvement for all individuals. She reflected on what athletics had done for her personally and described the discrimination she had experienced as a female athlete throughout her career. In particular, her testimony discussed the symbiotic relationship between intellectual and social growth and athletics.<sup>97</sup> She recounted how playing sports helped students with discipline and time management and the connection between being physically fit and mentally sharp.<sup>98</sup> King criticized the NCAA for its monopoly on college athletics and for fostering a system in which college athletes were actually professional athletes. This argument highlighted, once again, the conflict at the time between women's groups in Washington,

women's athletic groups, and the NCAA. It also began a debate that continues today over the professionalization of college athletics.

A second and equally important point concerned society's perception of female athletes. Senator Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.), for instance, asked King how equity would solve such problems as "breaking down among girls and women the concept of the "unladylikeness" and also the matter of jumping from say swimming and tennis to some other sports, and how do we educate society on the social mores that obviously are involved?"<sup>99</sup> King replied that "so many women" have "the potential to be athletically inclined, and they are just afraid, but if through these educational programs, if you do fund athletic programs and girls find out it is fun, they find out that they are accepted, in fact they are looked up to, this will change everything."<sup>100</sup> Little girls would go home and tell their families how much fun they were having, which would change perceptions. And if women's sports become professional, girls and boys would have new role models of successful female athletes, which would also encourage a change in social mores. Indeed, little boys told King that they wanted to be great tennis players like her. They did not think of her as a woman or a man; they knew her as an athlete.<sup>101</sup>

King discussed several other possible changes. She pointed out that "money is a measuring stick" for success.<sup>102</sup> People valued her based on her financial success as a professional tennis player.<sup>103</sup> If more professional sports opened to women, and prize monies increased, it would facilitate a change in the public's perception of women athletes. The media's role was also changing the public's perception of women athletes. Sports writers no longer wrote about "Cute blue eyed petite da-da boo-boo?... They do not start a story about a male athlete the same way."<sup>104</sup> Change was occurring within families as well. For instance, King cited mothers who wanted their little girls to have the same opportunities as their sons.

Other witnesses testified in the Senate hearings on the issue of sports for women. Women such as Bernice Sandler and Helen D. Wise, president of the National Education Association, referenced athletics in their testimony. Dr. Wise prepared a statement for the record that emphasized the importance of athletics for women. "If schools are to provide for the needs of girls, they must move to open educational opportunities beyond those that have traditionally existed."<sup>105</sup> According to Wise, given that school programs had traditionally distinguished between sports and physical education programs for girls and boys, the Women's Educational Equity Act, S. 2518, would help to eliminate some of the inequities and create more educational opportunities for women.

Although Title IX as legislated in 1972 forbade discrimination on the basis of sex in all federally assisted education programs, it did not create new programs for direct assistance to women.<sup>106</sup> Congress offered solutions to this “problem” in committee hearings on the Women’s Educational Equity Act of 1973. These hearings provided another opportunity for the policy community to debate athletics as a component of gender equity for women in education. In contrast, the hearings on Discrimination Against Women that took place in 1970 and the groups and individuals involved in Title IX’s legislation had not included discussion of athletics as a part of educational opportunity. In terms of timing, in 1973, while those in the executive arena debated congressional intent concerning athletics for women in Title IX, those in the congressional arena clarified their intent on Title IX through both statute and hearings related to the Education Amendments of 1974.

On August 21, 1974, President Gerald Ford signed the Education Amendments of 1974 (P.L. 93-380) into law, which included both the Women’s Educational Equity Act (Section 408) and the Javits amendment (Section 844). Section 408 of P.L. 93-380 authorized funding for several activities to achieve educational equity for men and women, and included the establishment of an Advisory Council on Women’s Educational Programs in the Office of Education.<sup>107</sup> The significance of the Women’s Educational Equity Act for Title IX’s development was not only that it provided funding and an advisory council, but also, through the hearings, that it drew more attention to sex bias in education and provided one of the first political institutional forums for the discussion of gender equity in sport. The Javits amendment, in particular, would subsequently be referenced by executive officials as a clear statement from Congress on the meaning of the Title IX statute as it applied to athletics.

### THE JAVITS AMENDMENT

The Javits amendment specifically instructed the Secretary of HEW to issue proposed regulations for Title IX within thirty days of the passage of the Amendments, and furthermore stated that the regulations should make “reasonable provisions” for intercollegiate athletic activities.<sup>108</sup> Ironically, in this case, what began as a legislative proposal to *exclude* athletics from Title IX policy resulted in a policy that expanded the meaning of Title IX specifically to *include* intercollegiate athletics. The Javits amendment thus provides a conspicuous example of how policy change often occurs as the result of unintended consequences.

On May 20, 1974, in anticipation of the soon-to-be-released proposed Title IX regulations, Senator John Tower (R-Tex.) proposed an amendment to exempt revenue-producing intercollegiate athletics from coverage under Title IX. He claimed that the HEW had mistakenly “interpreted Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to provide it with the authority to promulgate rules governing sex discrimination in intercollegiate athletics.”<sup>109</sup> According to his recollection and subsequent investigation, he insisted that Congress had not intended for Title IX to extend to intercollegiate athletics. Further, he argued that the proposed HEW rules would damage the revenue-raising ability of collegiate sports programs and thereby the overall sports program of the institution. This in turn would diminish the ability of the college or university to provide increased athletic opportunities for women.

In the middle of his statement, Tower modified his amendment to include a proposal made by Senator Mondale (D-Minn.).<sup>110</sup> In a compromise agreement, Mondale agreed not to oppose Tower’s amendment if Tower would add the requirement that the commissioner prepare and publish regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 within thirty days of the passage of the Education Amendments of 1974.<sup>111</sup> The Senate agreed to the Tower amendment, now including the Mondale proposal.

In conference committee, however, the Javits amendment replaced the Tower amendment. The Javits alteration left Mondale’s proposal intact, but it severely changed Tower’s proposal. Instead of exempting revenue-producing intercollegiate athletics from Title IX policy, the Javits amendment required Title IX regulations to include “reasonable provisions” concerning intercollegiate athletics. The conference committee also agreed to a House-passed provision that gave Congress forty-five days after the publication of DHEW regulations to veto the regulations by concurrent resolution if they found them inconsistent with congressional intent.<sup>112</sup> If Congress did not pass a concurrent resolution within the forty-five days, then the regulations would automatically go into effect.

What happened in conference committee? Margot Polivy, an attorney for the American Intercollegiate Athletic Association for Women (AIAW) at the time, has recalled that the Javits amendment was actually scrawled on an envelope on Representative Shirley Chisholm’s (D-N.Y.) back in the hall *outside* the conference committee.<sup>113</sup> Carol Burris from the Women’s Lobby also participated in drafting the amendment. In conference, it seems that Tower agreed to the Javits amendment because Pell, the subcommittee chairman, promised to hold hearings at a later date on Tower’s main issue concerning Title IX and revenue-producing sports. Tower reintroduced his amendment

as a bill in 1975 (S. 2106), after the release of Title IX's final regulations. Although the Senate hearings on the Tower amendment generated a great deal of debate within the policy community, the Senate did not vote on or pass S. 2106.

Timing and priorities clearly facilitated the passage of the Javits amendment. Margot Polivy remembered that the Javits amendment was “small potatoes” in comparison to the much larger appropriations bill within which it was ensconced.<sup>114</sup> The appropriations bill needed to be passed, and “small potatoes” like the Javits amendment were not going to hold up its passage. The passage of the Javits amendment thus illustrates how political context, interest groups, and unintended consequences can have an impact on the timing and substance of policy change. The agreements made among Tower, Mondale, Javits, and Pell reflected the compromises that accompany and often shape policy formulation.

This story also demonstrates how a policy's original intention (i.e., the Tower amendment) can produce a completely unintended, if not opposite, outcome. The need to get the appropriations bill passed framed the political context and affected the timing of the bill's consideration and passage. Policy change thus flowed from unintended institutional incentives and resources. Polivy's statement about the political context also reflects the importance of political timing in policy formulation. What was seen as “small potatoes” prior to ERA's passage would not have been viewed so afterward. Last, the fortuitous involvement of Carol Burris from the Women's Lobby and Margot Polivy from AIAW outside the conference room with Javits as he wrote his amendment demonstrates the relevance of outside organized forces.

The Javits amendment also facilitated congressional communication with the executive arena. First, the Javits amendment stated congressional desire for executive action on Title IX regulations. Although Congress did not enact the Education Amendments of 1974 until August 1974, the Javits amendment prodded HEW into proposing Title IX regulations on June 20, 1974.<sup>115</sup> Second, documentary evidence indicates that individuals within the executive arena considered the Javits amendment an expression of congressional intent as they formulated Title IX's final regulations. For instance, in October 1974, John B. Rhineland, General Counsel, in responding to the Secretary of DHEW's question about whether “Title IX must deal with intercollegiate sports that produce, through gate receipt or otherwise, significant revenue to universities and colleges,” included a detailed account of how Congress replaced the Tower amendment, which would have excluded revenue-producing sports from Title IX coverage, with the Javits amendment,

thereby specifically stating Title IX's application to intercollegiate athletics.<sup>116</sup> Because the statute did not differentiate between revenue and non-revenue-producing sports, there seemed to be no basis for exempting "such sports and their revenues from coverage by Title IX."<sup>117</sup> As Rhinelanders noted, "The legislative history together with the statutory language, finally enacted through the Javits amendment, *leaves no doubt that Congress intended Title IX to apply to competitive athletics and did not intend to exclude from its application revenue-producing athletics.*"<sup>118</sup> The Javits amendment thus illustrates Title IX's simultaneous development across institutions and the cross-institutional communication that shaped Title IX policy as it applied to sport.<sup>119</sup>

## THE COURTS

The courts also contributed to the dialogue and shaped Title IX policy at this key historical juncture. As the executive branch struggled to formulate Title IX's final regulations, it did so with further input from Congress, as well as through consideration of judicial activity. The overall development of judicial precedent concerning gender equity in athletics paralleled its development in the executive branch and the legislature. The Supreme Court also received its first cases filed under the Equal Protection Clause involving sex discrimination in high school athletic programs.<sup>120</sup> These cases were not filed under Title IX but did indicate judicial opinion on a woman's right to gender equity in education and athletics under the Equal Protection Clause; the executive branch cited these decisions in the process of formulating Title IX regulations. At this juncture, these athletic cases did not need to address the issue of whether or not sex was a suspect classification; instead, they had to establish whether or not the classification based on sex, which denied women participation in athletics, bore a rational relationship to a state interest. Under the Fourteenth Amendment, the Equal Protection Clause had been construed to apply only when "state action" was shown.<sup>121</sup> The Court, therefore, had to establish whether or not administering programs of interscholastic athletics for state high schools constituted "state action" within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.<sup>122</sup>

In general, equal protection claims brought by female student athletes arose in three distinct situations.<sup>123</sup> The first concerned the failure by an educational institution to fund a noncontact sport for women, while at the same time prohibiting women from joining the men's team.<sup>124</sup> The second scenario involved a claim against a school that *did* provide a separate program for women, but the plaintiff wanted to gain entry to a men's team or invalidate

restrictions on competition between the separate teams.<sup>125</sup> In other words, female athletes made the telling argument that separate was *not* equal. The third situation involved the failure by a school to provide a contact sport for women, while at the same time prohibiting women from joining the men's team.<sup>126</sup>

A case from the first category, *Brenden v. Independent School District*,<sup>127</sup> will illustrate the court's role in the development of gender equity in athletics as a policy issue. (See Table 1 for other cases that arose at the same time.) The *Brenden* case is relevant for several reasons. First, the courts decided the *Brendan* case in 1973, one of the first cases the courts received concerning equity in athletics. Members of the executive branch thus referenced *Brenden* as support for the inclusion of athletics in Title IX coverage. (As an example, see the discussion of the Dixon letter below.) Second, the 8th circuit court of appeals adjudicated the *Brendan* case at the very time that Congress held hearings on WEEA, which included reference to athletics in education. Third, the opinion in this case cited congressional and executive activity in the development of judicial precedent concerning sex discrimination in athletics and education, thereby underscoring once again the cross-institutional dialogue during this period of Title IX's development. Last, the facts of the case illuminate the social and political context in which gender equity in athletics developed as a public policy issue.

In *Brenden*, two female Minnesota high school students, Peggy Brenden and Antoinette St. Pierre, filed to enjoin the enforcement of rules prohibiting interscholastic competition between men and women. Both plaintiffs were exceptional athletes, Brenden in tennis, and St. Pierre in cross-country skiing and cross-country track, but their schools did not provide competitive teams for females in these sports. The schools offered interscholastic competition in these sports for men only. The plaintiffs were denied the opportunity to try out for the team because of the Minnesota State High School League's rule barring girls from participating in male athletics.<sup>128</sup>

As their primary defense, the defendant high schools argued that the purpose of the league rule was "to insure that persons with similar qualifications [would] compete among themselves."<sup>129</sup> They further argued that the physiological differences between males and females made it impossible for females to compete equitably with males in athletic competition.<sup>130</sup> The defendants' expert witnesses testified that "men are taller than women, stronger than women by reason of greater muscle mass; have larger hearts than women and a deeper breathing capacity ... [and] run faster, based upon the construction of the pelvic area."<sup>131</sup> The appellate court disagreed and affirmed the lower court's ruling in favor of the plaintiffs.

**Table 1.** Activity relating to Title IX within each policy arena from 1970 to 1975

	Congress	Executive	Judiciary
1970	Hearings on Discrimination Against Women		
1971			
1972	Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 passed	Report of the Commissioner's Task Force on the Impact of office of Education Programs on women: A Look at Women in Education: Issues and Answers for HEW released November 1972 – includes discussion of athletics as component of equity in education	<i>Haas v. South Bend Community School Corporation</i> 289 N.E. 2d 495 (Ind. 1972) – class- action suit allowed girls to play on boys team if girls team not provided  <i>Bucha v. Illinois High School Assoc.</i> 351 F.Supp.69 (N.D. Ill. 1972) – girls sought to play on boys team when girls team provided – not required
1973	Hearings held in House and Senate on the Women's Education Equity Act – testimony heard concerning relationship between gender equity in education and athletics; Billie Jean King testifies		<i>Morris v. Michigan State Board of Education</i> 472 F.2d 1207 (6th Cir. 1973) – court excluded girls from playing on contact sports teams with boys – limit application to noncontact sports  <i>Brendan v. Independent School District</i> 742 477 F.2d (8th Cir. 1973)



**Table 1.** Continued

	Congress	Executive	Judiciary
1974	Tower amendment proposed – contains NCAA proposal to exempt revenue-producing sports from Title IX regulations; replaced with Javits amendment, which requires reasonable provisions for athletics in Title IX regulations	HEW issues proposed policy regulations June 1974; receives approximately 10,000 comments; over 90% of comments received relate to regulations application to athletics	
	Education Amendments of 1974 passed – includes Javits amendment and Womens Education Equity Act.		
1975		Final Title IX regulations approved	

The court relied on the test used by the Supreme Court in *Reed v. Reed*<sup>132</sup> and found that this sex-based classification had “no fair and substantial relationship to the objective of the league rule.”<sup>133</sup> The court further believed that *Reed* precluded a state from using assumptions about the nature of females as a class.<sup>134</sup> In the *Brenden* case, the two girls were barred from competition based on assumptions about the qualifications of women as a class. The court determined, therefore, that “the failure to provide the plaintiffs with an individualized determination of their own ability to qualify for positions on these teams is, under *Reed*, violative of the Equal Protection Clause.”<sup>135</sup> Although the court ultimately argued in favor of the plaintiffs, it carefully specified what this case did not decide.<sup>136</sup>

Because neither high school offered separate teams for Brenden or St. Pierre, the court did not have to rule whether or not schools could fulfill their responsibilities under the Equal Protection Clause by providing separate but equal athletic facilities for females.<sup>137</sup> Second, because the sports in question

were noncontact sports, this case did not decide whether schools could prevent women from competing in contact sports with men.<sup>138</sup> Third, this case did not require the court to determine whether classifications based on sex were suspect.<sup>139</sup> As the court noted in *Brenden*, the High School League's rule could not be justified even under the standard applied to test nonsuspect classifications. Last, the court granted a permanent injunction, but limited it to the facts presented and applied only to the two plaintiffs. As Wien notes, "The decision in *Brenden v Independent School District* is limited to a situation wherein plaintiff high school girls wished to take part in certain interscholastic boys' athletics (tennis, cross-country track and skiing)."<sup>140</sup> The evidence concerning substantial physiological differences between males and females was, therefore, irrelevant to this case, because the two plaintiffs could, as a matter of skill in these sports, competently compete on the boys' teams.<sup>141</sup>

The significance of the *Brenden* case for this study was Judge Heaney's reference to the activities and opinions of the other branches of government in drawing his conclusion that "at the very least, the plaintiff's interest in participating in interscholastic sports is a substantial and cognizable one."<sup>142</sup> He cited the reports of the President's Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities and the President's Commission on the Status of Women as evidence that discrimination in education had been recognized as an issue of great importance.<sup>143</sup> He also quoted Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 as illustrative of Congress's recognition of the importance of sex discrimination in education. Judge Heaney thus quoted the specific words of other policy arenas, thereby illustrating that the three arenas "communicated" with one another to develop policy concerning gender equity in athletics. Indeed, the federal arena resembled an echo chamber on this key subject.

Very quickly, the other branches of government referenced the *Brenden* decision in their evaluation of Title IX policy. In an exchange between Caspar Weinberger and Robert Dixon Jr., assistant attorney general in the Office of Legal Counsel, in June 1974, Weinberger specifically requested information concerning the "applicability of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to athletic activities and, in particular, intercollegiate activities."<sup>144</sup> In his response, Dixon considered both judicial precedent and legislative history.

The overall purpose of Dixon's response was twofold: (1) to answer the questions posed by Secretary Weinberger concerning the applicability of Title IX to athletic activities and (2) to argue his department's opinion on what Title IX regulations should entail. Ultimately, Dixon argued that the rules needed to be more specific concerning athletics: "We recognize the complex

and novel nature of the issues presented by the application of Title IX to athletics and the consequent difficulty of drafting a regulation on the subject. Still, in our view, the present provisions on athletics (§ 86.38) are not adequate. We recommend that an effort be made to spell out more clearly what Title IX means with respect to athletics.”<sup>145</sup> In addition, Title IX’s legislative history seemed to indicate that “*Congress, like the courts*, embraced the view that an as yet undetermined number of rational distinctions between the sexes in regard to educational and athletic activities may be proper.”<sup>146</sup> HEW’s Title IX regulations should, therefore, allow some distinctions in athletic activities, such as separate locker rooms for men and women and separation by sex in regard to contact sports.

Dixon specifically referenced *Brenden v. Independent School District 742*, 477 F.2d (8th Cir. 1973), contending that the interpretation of the court “bolstered” support for a broad interpretation of Title IX and the inclusion of athletics in Title IX coverage. The court ruled that “discrimination in high school interscholastic athletics constitute[d] discrimination in education.”<sup>147</sup> As Dixon’s letter indicates, the court’s affirmation that Brendan and St. Pierre had been denied their rights under the Fourteenth Amendment “spoke” to the other arenas about judicial opinion concerning sex discrimination in sport.

The emergence of athletics on Title IX’s policy agenda thus occurred simultaneously and serendipitously across all three institutions. At the same time Heaney wrote his opinion concerning gender equity in athletics, the executive branch and Congress debated Title IX regulations with particular concern for athletics. Outside organized forces and the political and social context also supported a focus on gender equity in athletics.

## CONCLUSION

After the passage of Title IX in June 1972, several elements and institutional processes came together within a changing social context to expand the statute’s meaning to incorporate gender equity in athletics. Like a “perfect storm” or the rare alignment of the planets, the coming together of historical context, institutional processes, and social elements created the proper timing for agenda shift. Before Congress passed Title IX, in preparation for the regulation-writing process, the Office of Education created a commission to evaluate the impact of OE programs on women. The final report released in November discussed athletics as a part of educational opportunity. In 1973, a window opened in Congress for the clarification of congressional intent on

Title IX policy. The expiration of the Educational and Secondary Education Act of 1965 created the opportunity for the passage of the Education Amendments of 1974, which led to hearings on the Women's Education Equity Act and a statute (the Javits amendment) that clearly indicated athletics as a part of women's equity in education. Also within the same time frame, the executive arena developed and proposed Title IX regulations. Although not the most salient issue at the time, the question of whether or not revenue-producing sports should be excluded from Title IX regulations emerged as "the single most controversial issue in the Title IX [proposed] regulation based upon public and Congressional interest."<sup>148</sup> Policy formulation within the executive arena included reference to the Javits amendment as indication of congressional intent and the need to include reasonable provisions for athletics. The judicial arena also participated in the dialogue as congressional and executive members considered judicial precedent in their debates and the courts referenced congressional and executive activity as it established precedent concerning gender equity in athletics. Athletics thus became a part of Title IX policy in the early 1970s as an issue that appeared simultaneously within a policy community that extended across all three policy-making arenas.

Historical context, unintended consequences, and external factors also contributed to the proper timing for change. Two key players in Title IX's early development, Bernice Sandler and Margot Polivy, both acknowledged in interviews the importance of timing in its passage; if it had come any later, its passage would have been more difficult. Conflict among outside interests also redirected Title IX's policy agenda. At the time, women's groups did not want sports for women as defined by men. But as groups in support of men's athletics fought so hard against Title IX, it raised political awareness of Title IX's potential for the women's groups. This point of contention focused the agenda on Title IX's impact on athletics, as these groups testified in congressional hearings and wrote letters to congressional and executive members and provided information in the comment period during the regulation-writing process. Institutional processes and political events thus opened the window for policy change, while historical context and interest-group conflict focused the agenda. All together, these factors fostered the right timing for agenda setting and policy change in Title IX to include athletics as a component of gender equity in education.

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## NOTES

1. For instance, in the summer of 2002, the Bush administration established the Commission on Opportunity in Athletics to evaluate Title IX's compliance rules. Diana Jean Schemo, "Title IX Dissenters to Issue Report Criticizing Proposed Changes to Women's Athletics," *New York Times*, 25 February 2003. The Bush administration formed this commission largely as a result of a lawsuit filed against the Department of Education by the National Wrestling Coaches. Michael Dobie, "Entitlement?" *Newsday*, 24 November 2002, B16–17. In *National Wrestling Coaches Association et al. v. United States Department of Education* (Case no. 1:02 CV00072 EGS [DDS]), the NWCA accused the Department of Education of using a "quota system" to enforce Title IX, which subsequently resulted in colleges and universities cutting more than four hundred men's teams <http://www.usatoday.com/sports/college/stories/2002-05-03-title-ix.htm>. The debate over Title IX's implementation involves all three policy arenas.

2. Congress, House, Committee on Education and Labor, *Discrimination Against Women: Hearings before the Special Subcommittee on Education*, 91st Cong., 2nd sess., 17 June 1970.

3. Paul Pierson and Theda Skocpol, "Historical Institutionalism in Contemporary Political Science," in *The State of the Discipline*, ed. Ira Katznelson and Helen Milner (New York, 2004), 1. See also Stephen Skowronek and Karen Orren, "Beyond the Ichnography of Order: Notes for a 'New Institutionalism,'" in *The Dynamics of American Politics*, ed. Lawrence Dodd and Calvin Jillson (Boulder, 1994), 311–30. Pierson and Skocpol, for instance, argue for three important features that characterize historical institutional scholarship: substantive agendas "that are inherently of interest to broad publics as well as to fellow scholars; temporal arguments that take time seriously in terms of "specifying sequences and tracing transformations and processes of varying scale and temporality;" and attention to contexts and configurations in terms of institutions and processes.

4. Pierson discusses the concept of policy feedback. Once Title IX focus and state shifted to include athletics, it continued to feed back and center the policy debates over Title IX implementation. See U.S. Government Accountability Office, "Gender Issues: Women's Participation in the Sciences Has Increased, but Agencies Need to Do More to Ensure Compliance with Title IX," GAO-04-639, July 2004. Only recently has there been a movement to focus on Title IX as it applies to math and sciences See Christina Hoff Sommers, "Why Can't a Woman Be More Like a Man," *The American* (March–April 2008): 27.

5. This is the pluralist argument that agenda setting and policy shifts within government are determined by outside pressure groups. David B. Truman, *The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion* (New York, 1951). Although these theories recognize that activists' achievements depend partly on the political opportunities provided by government and society, the focus is on the pressure from the bottom up, which keeps the movement from stagnating. See Anne N. Costain, "Eliminating Sex Discrimination in Education: Lobbying for Implementation of Title IX," in *Race, Sex, and Policy Problems*, ed. Marian Lief Palley and Michael B. Preston (Lexington, Mass., 1979), 3–11; Flora Davis, *Moving the Mountain* (New York, 1991), chap. 9; Mary Jo Festle, *Playing Nice: Politics and Apologies in Women's Sports* (New York, 1996), chap. 5, 109–41; Joyce Gelb and Marian

Lief Palley, "Chapter 5: Title IX: The Politics of Sex Discrimination," *Women and Public Policies* (Princeton, 1982); M. Margaret Conway, David Ahern, and Gertrude Steuernagel, "Chapter 2: Women and Education Policy," *Women and Public Policy: A Revolution in Progress* (Washington, D.C., 1995), 18–37.

6. Andrew Fisher and Janice Pottker, *National Politics and Sex Discrimination in Education* (Lexington, Mass., 1977).

7. Joseph McCarthy, *Title IX from 1970 to 1988: A Study in Educational Policy Making* (Ann Arbor, 1991).

8. Festle, *Playing Nice*; Gelb and Palley, "Chapter 5: Title IX"; Conway, Ahern, and Steuernagel, "Chapter 2: Women and Education Policy."

9. See, for example, Joan Ruth Kutner, "Sex Discrimination in Athletics," *Villanova Law Review* 21 (1976): 876–903; Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "The Burger Court's Grapplings with Sex Discrimination," in *The Burger Court: The Counter-Revolution That Wasn't*, ed. Vincent Blasi (New Haven, 1983), 132–56; Susan Gluck Mezey, *Elusive Equality: Women's Rights, Public Policy, and the Law* (Boulder, 2003), chap. 2; June E. Jensen, "Title IX and Intercollegiate Athletics: HEW Gets Serious About Equality in Sports," *New England Law Review* 15 (1980): 573–96.

10. See, for example, Ellen J. Vargyas, "Breaking Down Barriers: A Legal Guide to Title IX," *National Women's Law Center*, February 1994; Sundra Flansburg and Katherine Hanson, "Legislation for Change: A Case Study of Title IX and the Women's Educational Equity Act Program," *Working Papers Series of the Center for Equity and Cultural Diversity* (Newton, Mass., 1993); Diane Heckman, *The Women's Sports Foundation Report on Title IX, Athletics, and the Office for Civil Rights* (East Meadow, N.Y., 1997); Donna de Varona and Julie Foudy, "Minority Views on the Report of the Commission on Opportunity in Athletics," 26 February 2003.

11. Jessica Gavora, *Tilting the Playing Field: Schools, Sports, Sex, and Title IX* (San Francisco, 2002).

12. Linda Jean Carpenter and R. Vivian Acosta, *Title IX* (Champaign, 2005).

13. John Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies* (New York, 2003), discusses open policy windows as those times when policy change and/or agenda setting is most likely to occur. Paul Pierson, *Politics in Time: History, Institutions, and Social Analysis* (Princeton, 2004), highlights the importance of temporal context for understanding politics.

14. For instance, policies can come up for reauthorization, which creates opportunity for agenda setting in both the congressional and executive arenas, or the Court often enters the policy debate by validating or invalidating executive interpretations of congressional legislation.

15. Paul Pierson, "The Study of Policy Development," *Journal of Policy History* 17, no. 1 (2005): 43. "Even where actors may be greatly concerned about the future in their efforts to design public policies, they operate in a setting of great complexity and high uncertainty. As a result, unanticipated consequences are likely to be widespread. Of all the limitations of the rational design argument, this is perhaps the most significant."

16. See *ibid.* on the unintended consequences. See also Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones, *Agendas and Instability in American Politics* (Chicago, 1993); Terry M. Moe, "The Politicized Presidency," in *The New Direction in American Politics*, ed. John E. Chubb and Paul E. Pierson (Washington, D.C., 1985), 236, as new institutional theory that sees conflict, not consensus, as determining timing for political change.

17. Margot Polivy, phone interview by author, 17 October 2000.
18. Bernice Sandler, phone interview by author, 1 August 2007.
19. See Carpenter and Acosta, *Title IX*, 168–69, for statistics on the increased women's participation in sport.
20. Margot Polivy, phone interview by author, 17 October 2000.
21. Richard Davies, *America's Obsession: Sports and Society Since 1945* (Fort Worth, 1994), chap. 6; Mary Carillo and Frank Deford, *Dare to Compete: The Struggle of Women in Sport*, produced by Ross Greenburg. Home Box Office Productions, A Division of Time Warner Entertainment Co., 1999. Videocassette.
22. "How Bobby Runs and Talks, Talks, Talks," *Time*, 10 September 1973, 56.
23. *Ibid.*
24. "How King Rained on Riggs' Parade," *Time*, 1 October 1973, 110; Davies, *America's Obsession*, 161.
25. Pete Axthem, "The Hustler Outhustled," *Newsweek*, 1 October 1973, 64; "How Bobby Runs and Talks, Talks, Talks," *Time*, 10 September 1973, 54–50.
26. Carillo and Deford, *Dare to Compete*.
27. "How Bobby Runs and Talks, Talks, Talks," 60.
28. Carillo and Deford, *Dare to Compete*.
29. Nancy Scannell and Bart Barnes, "An 'Unfeminine' Stigma," *Washington Post*, 15 May 1974. Article in Ford Papers, F. Lynn May Files, Box 40, Folder: Sex Equality—Title IX, 1974 (1).
30. Carillo and Deford, *Dare to Compete*. Bobbi Gibb, the first woman to run a marathon in 1966, stated: "Even women thought women weren't capable of running more than half a mile competitively. They thought they would damage their reproductive system." In the late 1960s, women were not allowed to officially enter and run marathons. Boston Marathon officials rejected Bobbi Gibb's application to enter. They told her that women were not physiologically capable of running twenty-six miles, nor were they allowed to. Gibb, therefore, snuck into the middle of the pack at the starting line on the day of the race. She even ran the race in nursing shoes, which were the best shoes available to women at the time. Although she finished in 3 hours and 7 minutes (an elite time even by today's standards), marathon officials refused to acknowledge her accomplishment.
31. *Ibid.*
32. *Ibid.*
33. *Ibid.* Seven years later, in 1974, she was able to register officially as a participant in the New York City marathon and finished first among women and before more than half the men.
34. To assess the coverage of women's athletics in popular journals, I searched the subject headings related to sports in the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* for the years 1968 through 1974. I pulled all articles that discussed or covered women's athletics. I found that in 1972 articles began to appear under the subject heading of "Women in Sport" and that the content of the coverage of women's athletics events began to change after 1972.
35. "For-Men-Only Barrier in Athletics Is Teetering," *New York Times*, 16 July 1972, sec. 5, p. 7, col. 2.
36. *Ibid.*
37. George V. Packard, "Pick Up Your Purse, Coach, and Let's Go," *Sports Illustrated*, 30 November 1970, 88–90.

38. Harold Peterson, "Formful Win in a Most Formful Affair," *Sports Illustrated*, 23 August 1971, 48.
39. Festle, *Playing Nice*, 109. "Intercollegiate athletics for women was transformed in the early 1970's. The altered cultural and political climate brought with it opportunities galore for growth and acceptance. But it also brought with it unanticipated problems, including active resistance and a threat to women's autonomy."
40. Bernice Sandler, phone interview by author, 8 August 2007. Also see Festle, *Playing Nice*, 113. "Indeed, although they had always been woman-centered, physical educators traditionally were quite conservative. One feminist who encountered PE leaders in the early 1970's characterized them as Republicans and as the least likely women to be involved in a social movement."
41. Festle, *Playing Nice*, 131. "In fact, the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (an all-male organization) annoyed AIAW further by publishing anti-title IX propaganda that implied women did not want to participate in sports."
42. *Ibid.*, 132.
43. Martha Derthick, *Policymaking for Social Security* (Washington, D.C., 1979), 9.
44. Memorandum to the President from Caspar Weinberger, 5/31/74, folder "Sex Equality—Title IX, 1974(1)," Box 40, F. Lynn May Files, Gerald R. Ford Library.
45. The NCAA's proposal was incorporated in the Tower Amendment, which was passed by the Senate in May 1974. Senator John Tower of Texas, Congress, Senate, *Congressional Record* (20 May 1974), 15323. It did not make it through the conference committee.
46. Letter to President Nixon from Olin E. Teague, 3/15/74, NPM, NARA, WHCF, HU-2, Box 22.
47. Letter to Honorable Olin Teague from Warwick Jenkins, 3/9/74, NPM, NARA, WHCF, HU-2, Box 22.
48. *Ibid.*
49. Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*.
50. Letter to Anne Armstrong from Caspar Weinberger, 8 May 1974, NPM, NARA, WHCF, HU-2, Box 22.
51. Letter to Dean Hinckley from Ver Hirschberg, 4/1/74, NPM, NARA, WHCF, HU-2, Box 22.
52. *Ibid.* Specifically Hirschberg notes "working closely with Gwen Gregory and others in the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and with Bernice Sandler and her staff."
53. Fishel and Pottker, *National Politics and Sex Discrimination in Education*, 113.
54. Memorandum for the Honorable Kenneth Cole from Caspar Weinberger, 12/16/74, folder "Sex Equality—Title IX, 1974(2)," Box 40, F. Lynn May Files, Gerald R. Ford Library.
55. Carpenter and Acosta, *Title IX*, 6.
56. Fishel and Pottker, *National Politics and Sex Discrimination in Education*, 13. As was expected, during the press conference, a large portion of the questions asked of Weinberger concerned the issue of college sports, which Weinberger jokingly indicated must "be the most important subject in the United States today." For full evaluation of positions taken in the comments submitted on Title IX, see Andrew Fishel, "Organizational Positions on Title IX: Conflicting Perspectives," *Journal of Higher Education* 47 (January–February 1976): 93–105.



57. Memorandum to the Honorable Kenneth Cole from Caspar Weinberger, 12/16/74, folder "Sex Equality—Title IX, 1974 (2)," Box 40, F. Lynn May Files, Gerald R. Ford Library.

58. Statement by Caspar Weinberger, 6/3/75, folder "Regulation (6)," Box 14, Lindh and Holm Files, Gerald R. Ford Library.

59. Memorandum for the President from Caspar Weinberger, 2/28/75, folder "Title IX—Regulation (1)," Box 14, Lindh and Holm Files, Gerald R. Ford Library.

60. Summary report, Subject: Discussion of Education Programs in HEW with Particular Emphasis on Women's Programs, 1/14/75, folder "Tuesday Meeting: Women's Education," Box 1, Lindh and Holm Files, Gerald R. Ford Library.

61. *Ibid.*, 5.

62. *Ibid.*

63. For discussion of the different positions taken, see Andrew Fishel, "Organizational Positions on Title IX: Conflicting Perspectives on Sex Discrimination in Education," *Journal of Higher Education* 47, no. 1 (February 1976). The conflicting perspectives had also reached the media. See, for example, "Women Want a Sporting Chance," *The Economist*, 14 June 1975, 43; and Karlyn Barker, "Women Athletes Protest Efforts to Revise Title 9; Women Athletes Campaign for Anti-Bias Law," *Washington Post*, 23 April 1979, Metro, C3.

64. Memorandum to the President from Caspar Weinberger, 5/31/74, folder "Sex Equality—Title IX, 1974(1)," Box 40, F. Lynn May Files, Gerald R. Ford Library.

65. *Ibid.*

66. *Ibid.*

67. *Ibid.*

68. U.S. Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, *Report of the Commissioner's Task Force on the Impact of Education Programs on Women: A Look at Women in Education: Issues and Answers for HEW* (Washington, D.C., November 1972), iii. It indicates that the Department of Education began preparation for Title IX's enactment prior to its passage. For instance, the report discussed how Commissioner Marland recognized that "important events were at hand as Congress moved toward enactment of sweeping legislation banning all Federal education aid to any institution or individuals practicing sex discrimination," and believed that events like this would have a profound impact on Office of Education programs.

69. The report, however, did not include any suggestions for agency action on athletics in education.

70. *Ibid.*, 6.

71. *Ibid.*

72. *Ibid.*

73. Congress amended Title IX to include provisions for athletics through the Javits amendment included in the Education Amendments of 1974.

74. See Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*, on policy windows.

75. "Education: Action Completed," *CQ Weekly Reports*, 28 December 1974, 3423.

76. "On the Floor—Education Act Amendments—Title IV Consolidations," *CQ Weekly Reports*, 1 June 1974, 1450.

77. U.S. Congress, House, Committee on Education and Labor, *The Women's Educational Equity Act, H.R. 208: Hearings before the Subcommittee on Equal Opportunities*, 93rd Cong.,

1st sess., 25 July 1973 (Washington, D.C., 1973); U.S. Congress, Senate, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, *The Women's Educational Equity Act of 1973, S.2518: Hearings before the Subcommittee on Education*, 93rd Cong., 1st sess., 17 October 1973 (Washington, D.C., 1973).

78. U.S. Congressional Code and Administrative News (St. Paul, 1974), 695.

79. Fishel and Pottker, *National Politics and Sex Discrimination in Education*, 68. Much of the information on Arlene Horowitz and the activities surrounding the development of WEEA comes from Fishel and Pottker, chap. 4, and from Arlene Horowitz, phone interview by author, 20 November 2008.

80. Bernice Sandler was a professor at the University in Maryland in 1970 who had repeatedly been overlooked for a tenure-track position. In 1970 she became so frustrated that she began to devote her time to trying to solve the gender inequity that existed in higher education. Her efforts eventually evolved into Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

81. Arlene Horowitz, phone interview by author, 20 November 2008.

82. See Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*, chap. 2, on hidden participants.

83. Horowitz and Sandler both recalled their lunch on the grounds of the Capitol, but their recollections diverge on what they discussed. Horowitz remembers Bunny helping her put together a fact sheet on her legislation. Whereas Bunny remembers them discussing Horowitz's idea for a bill that supported the publication of all the women's studies being produced at the time. Bernice Sandler, phone interview by author, 1 August 2007. Arlene Horowitz, phone interview by author, 20 November 2008.

84. Fishel and Pottker, *National Politics and Sex Discrimination in Education*, 70–71.

85. Other, more negative feedback was also received. In August 1972, WEAL received information that the Office of Education would encourage the DHEW to oppose most provisions of the proposed equity bill. This information encouraged those in favor of the bill to garner even more support. The Women's Equity Action League thus proceeded to distribute a fact sheet documenting the existence of sexism in education and explaining the provisions of the bill.

86. Arlene Horowitz, phone interview by author, 20 November 2008. Horowitz expanded on this point. She said that Fraser had gone behind her back in bringing the bill to Mondale's attention and from that point forward Fraser directed the bill. As a twenty-two-year-old clerical worker, Horowitz did not have the power or credibility to compete with the more seasoned and connected feminists at the time. This reveals another example of the impact of historical context on the development of public policy.

87. U.S. Congress, Senate, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, *The Women's Educational Equity Act of 1973, S.2518: Hearings before the Subcommittee on Education*, 93rd Cong., 1st sess., 17 October 1973.

88. Fishel and Pottker, *National Politics and Sex Discrimination in Education*, 72–73.

89. This was in sharp contrast to the hearings on Sex Discrimination Against Women held in 1970 prior to Title IX's passage, which did not mention athletics as an element of educational equity. U.S. Congress, House, Committee on Education and Labor, *Discrimination Against Women: Hearings before the Special Subcommittee on Education*, 91st Cong., 2nd sess., 17 June 1970.

90. Testimony of Arvonne Fraser, U.S. Congress, House, Committee on Education and Labor, *The Women's Educational Equity Act, H.R. 208: Hearings before the Subcommittee on Equal Opportunities*, 93rd Cong., 1st sess., 25 July 1973, 15.

91. Fraser concluded that the “short-changing of girls in physical education and sports deprives them of the opportunity to establish life-time habits of exercise which lead to a high level of continuing good health in adult life.” *Ibid.*, 15.

92. Congress, Senate, Senator Mondale, *Congressional Record* (2 October 1973): 32484.

93. Testimony of Billie Jean King, U.S. Congress, Senate, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, *Women’s Educational Equity Act of 1973, S.2518: Hearings before the Subcommittee on Education*, 93rd Cong., 1st sess., 9 November 1973, 76–85.

94. Bernice Sandler, phone interview, 1 August 2007.

95. Just as the process works today, staff members are responsible for putting together the list of who will testify and reviewing their testimony prior to the hearings.

96. Ellen Hoffman, e-mail in response to author’s inquiry, 4 August 2007.

97. Sandler stated, “I think the one thing that athletics help you in is discipline and organizing your time. That is another thing you need, when you are studying, to organize your time. It does take some amount of discipline.” *Women’s Educational Equity Act of 1973*, 79.

98. “All I know is when I am not working out, when I go to read my retention becomes lower. I am much sharper when I am physically feeling healthy, and any time any of us are ill we realize how important this is.” *Ibid.*, 79.

99. *Ibid.*, 82.

100. *Ibid.*

101. *Ibid.*, 83. A generation later, King’s argument was clearly born out. By the end of the century, it is more socially acceptable to be a female athlete, as evidenced by athletes such as the U.S. Women’s Soccer team, including Mia Hamm and Brandi Chastain, and the sell-out crowds that attend UCONN Women’s Huskies and UTENN Women’s Volunteers basketball games.

102. *Ibid.*, 78.

103. King was the first women’s professional athlete to earn \$100,000.

104. *Women’s Educational Equity Act of 1973*, 82.

105. Congress, Senate, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, *The Women’s Educational Equity Act of 1973, S.2518: Hearings before the Subcommittee on Education*, 93rd Cong., 1st sess., 17 October 1973 (Washington, D.C., 1973), 135.

106. *Ibid.*, 49.

107. *United States Code and Administrative News* (St. Paul, 1974), 625–28. See also Senate Conference Report No. 93-1026, 23 July 1974, in *United States Code and Administrative News*, 4240–41.

108. *U.S. Congressional Code and Administrative News*, 695.

109. Senator John Tower, U.S. Congress, Senate, *Congressional Record* (20 May 1974): 15323.

110. *Ibid.*

111. Costain, “Eliminating Sex Discrimination in Education, 5. Senator John Tower, U.S. Congress, Senate, *Congressional Record* (20 May 1974): 15323.

112. Fishel and Pottker, *National Politics and Sex Discrimination in Education*, 114; Costain, “Eliminating Sex Discrimination in Education,” 5.

113. Margot Polivy, phone interview by author, 17 October 2000.

114. *Ibid.*

115. Costain, "Eliminating Sex Discrimination in Education," 5.
116. Memorandum from John B. Rhinelander to the Secretary of DHEW, 10/2/74, folder "Sex Equality—Title IX, 1974(2)," Box 40, F. Lynn May Files, Gerald R. Ford Library.
117. *Ibid.*, 2.
118. *Ibid.* Underline added. However, Rhinelander pointed out that because the Javits amendment only required that regulations include "reasonable provisions considering the nature of particular sports," it would allow some *differentiation* among sports on the basis of whether or not they produced revenue.
119. In fact, the Javits amendment has continued to serve as congressional communication with the other branches of government. As an example, in the 1990s, the executive arena debated over the meaning of "reasonable provisions considering the nature of particular sports" as written in the Javits amendment. In 1994 the Office of Civil Rights was set to rewrite its Investigators Manual and its enforcement of Title IX. There was concern that the proportionality test would take precedence in determining compliance and whether this fit the meaning of the Javits amendment and congressional intent. The proportionality rule was one test for determining compliance with Title IX. It required that the number of women participating in athletics programs be proportional to the number of women attending the school. The Javits amendment has thus continued to communicate congressional content for decades after its passage.
120. The few cases concerning sex discrimination in athletics that arose prior to 1970 involved challenges brought by professional female athletes against state sports commissions for their failure to issue them licenses. Joan Ruth Kutner, "Sex Discrimination in Athletics," *Villanova Law Review* 21 (1976), 886 n. 77.
121. The Fourteenth Amendment requires that "No state shall ... deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. U.S. Constitution, Amendment XIV, §1. Sandra Wien, "The Case for Equality in Athletics," *Cleveland State Law Review* 22, no. 3 (Fall 1973): 572.
122. Other cases came before the ones discussed here that established the activities of High School Athletic Associations as "state action" under the Fourteenth Amendment. See, for example, *St. Augustine High School et al. v. Louisiana High School Athletic Association et al.* 270 F. Supp. 767,770 (E.D. La. 1067), *aff'd*, 396 F.2d 224 (5th Cir. 1968). In this case, however, the issue was not gender, but race. An African American high school applied for membership into the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, which was all white. The question was whether or not the LHSA constituted state action.
123. Kutner, "Sex Discrimination in Athletics," 888.
124. In these cases, the Court found in favor of the plaintiffs regardless of the contentions made by the defending school systems and athletic associations. See *Reed v. Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA)* 341 Supp. 258 (D. Neb. 1972) and *Brendan v. Independent School District* 342 F. Supp. 1224 (D. Minn. 1972), *aff'd*, 477 F. 2d 1292 (8th Cir. 1973), and *Haas v. South Bend Community School Corp.* 259 Ind. 515, 289 N.E. 2d 495 (Ind. 1972).
125. See *Bucha v. Illinois High School Association (IHSA)* 351 F. Supp. 69 (N.D. Ill. 1972)
126. *Morris v. Michigan State Board of Education* 472 F.2d 1207 (6th Cir. 1973), *Darrin v. Gould* 540 P.2d 882 (Wash. 1973), and *Commonwealth v. Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Pa. Cmwlth. Ct.*, 334 A.2d 839 (1975).
127. *Brendan v. Independent School District* 342 F.Supp. 1224 (D. Minn. 1972), *aff'd*, 477 F.2d 1292 (8th Cir. 1973).

128. *Brendan v. Independent School District* 477 F.2d 1292, 1293, 1294 (8th Cir. 1973).
129. *Ibid.*, 1299.
130. *Ibid.*
131. *Ibid.*, 1299 n. 7.
132. *Reed v. Reed* 404 U.S. 71 (1971). The *Reed* case served as an early turning point in the Court's review of sex discrimination cases. Until that point, the Court had not found sex-based classification to be in violation of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. Instead, the Court used the "rational relation test," which allowed for sex-based classification as long as there was a rational basis for the statute's or regulation's classification. In the *Reed* case, the Court denied the state's justification of administrative convenience as sufficient reason to give automatic preference to males as executors of a descendant's estate when there was a female relative similarly situated.
133. Richard Rubin, "Sex Discrimination in Interscholastic High School Athletics," *Syracuse Law Review* 25, no. 2 (1974): 538.
134. *Brendan v. Independent School District* 477 F.2d 1292, 1302 (8th Cir. 1973).
135. *Ibid.*
136. See *Brendan v. Independent School District* 342 F.Supp. 1224, 1231 and 477 F.2d 1292, 1294, 1295 (8th Cir. 1973).
137. *Brendan v. Independent School District* 477 F.2d 1292, 1293 (8th Cir. 1973). *Bucha v. Illinois High School Association (IHSAA)* 351 F.Supp. 69 (N.D. Ill. 1972) involved female students who filed a class-action suit because they had been excluded from trying out for and participating on the school's interscholastic swim team. The court found that the existence of differences between the boys' and girls' programs was irrelevant to the case, because "the 14th amendment does not [create] fictitious equality where there is a real difference."
138. See, for instance, *Darrin v. Gould*, in which Carol and Delores Darrin sought to play on the football team at Wishkah Valley High School in Grays Harbor County. The district court in 1973 ruled in favor of the defendants. The written opinion implied that had the petitioners not brought a class action they might have been successful. Rubin, "Sex Discrimination in Interscholastic High School Athletics," 546. An en banc appellate court overturned the lower court ruling in 1975. 540 P.2d 882 (Wash. 1975)
139. This case occurred before 1976, when the court decided in *Craig v. Boren* 429 U.S. 190 (1976) that sex would not be treated as a suspect classification, but instead would be subject to intermediate scrutiny.
140. Sandra Wien, "The Case for Equality in Athletics," *Cleveland State Law Review* 22, no. 3 (1973): 581.
141. *Ibid.*, 582.
142. *Brendan v. Independent School District* 477 F.2d 1292, 1299 (8th Cir. 1973).
143. *Brendan v. Independent School District* 477 F.2d 1292, 1297 (8th Cir. 1973).
144. Letter from Robert Dixon, Assistant Attorney General, to Caspar W. Weinberger, 6/11/74, folder "Sex Discrimination (Title IX) General (1)," Box 25, Schmultz Files, Gerald R. Ford Library.
145. *Ibid.*
146. *Ibid.*, 9. Emphasis added.
147. *Ibid.*, 7.
148. Memorandum to the Honorable Kenneth Cole from Caspar Weinberger, 12/16/74, folder "Sex Equality—Title IX, 1974(2)," Box 40, F. Lynn May Files, Gerald R. Ford Library.