

**Encourage Your Organization to Support Reauthorization of a Modernized Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) in the new ESEA.**

We encourage organizational sign-ons by Aug. 9 2010. See the attached two page summary, sign-on letter, and draft WEEA 2010 legislation modelled on the 2001 WEEA which was included in NCLB. We have over 30 organizations signed on to the WEEA letter, but would like to include more.

Dear Organizations Supporting Gender Equity in Education,

We invite your organization join us in the attached [sign-on letter](#) to the Congressional committees working on reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This letter and its attachments ([a two page summary](#) and [the draft of the WEEA Reauthorization](#)) describe our recommendations for an updated and more adequately funded Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) as part of the reauthorized ESEA. The current WEEA of 2001 is part of the ESEA of 2002 -- often called No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Please respond by Aug. 9, 2010 if your organization will join the letter.

WEEA, which focuses on advancing gender equity in education, has long been a component of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. WEEA is the only federal legislation with the sole purpose of promoting full implementation of Title IX, but it has been minimally funded for the past few years. An updated, more strategic, and adequately funded WEEA is essential to carry out the federal government's responsibility to fully implement Title IX and advance gender equity. WEEA has received less than \$4 million annually since 1987 although it had been authorized at as much as \$80 million in 1980 and 1981.

The new WEEA will use network building strategies to facilitate best practices for ending sex discrimination. The proposed increase in annual WEEA funding from less than \$3 million to \$70 million annually is needed to support the gender equity community's implementation of new WEEA strategies.

These new WEEA strategies are designed to:

- Build Title IX Action Networks involving Title IX Coordinators and their gender equity partners at the national, state, and local levels.
- Support the development, evaluation, and use of model gender equity programs by funding six national Gender Equity Collaboratives instead of scattered local projects.
- Improve the U.S. Department of Education's leadership on gender equity by creating an Office for Gender Equity similar to the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor and the Offices on Women's Health at HHS. The new WEEA has great potential to help prevent illegal sex discrimination and actively advance gender equality for girls and boys, women and men.

We look forward to receiving your organization's sign-on information by August 9, 2010. You can respond by replying to this email with the name and title of the signer, as well as the full name of your organization.

Also, please let us know your thoughts on the [updated WEEA](#) and on additional ways to encourage its inclusion in the new ESEA. Feel free to forward this information to other groups that may wish to sign on.

Cordially, Kim, Sue, and Jan

Kim Gandy  
Vice President and General Counsel  
Feminist Majority Foundation and Feminist Majority  
1600 Wilson Blvd., Suite 801  
Arlington, VA 22209  
703-522-2214 office  
703-522-2219 fax  
202-641-1902 cell  
[kgandy@feminist.org](mailto:kgandy@feminist.org)  
[www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org)

Sue Klein, Ed.D  
Education Equity Director  
Feminist Majority Foundation  
1600 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 801  
Arlington, VA 22209  
703.522.2214 office  
703-522-2219 fax  
202-488-7430 home  
[sklein@feminist.org](mailto:sklein@feminist.org)  
[www.feminist.org/education](http://www.feminist.org/education)

Jan Erickson  
Director of Foundation Programs  
National Organization for Women  
2000 H. Street, NW, 3rd Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-628-8669 x122 Office  
202-785-8576 Fax  
[govtrel@now.org](mailto:govtrel@now.org)  
[www.now.org](http://www.now.org)