

HR 2532 - The Women in NCAA Sports (WINS) Act

Reps. Mikie Sherrill and Maria Salazar

Endorsements: Women's Sports Foundation, Women's Basketball Coaches Association, Association of Title IX Administrators (ATIXA), National Fastpitch Coaches Association, The Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, Alliance of Social Workers in Sports (ASWIS), Girls on the Run, and USA Lacrosse

The 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Basketball Championships laid bare disparities between NCAA's treatment of its men's and women's athletic programs, particularly the post-season tournaments. In response to public outrage, the NCAA commissioned an external review of its policies and practices to inform recommendations designed to address disparities between men's and women's sports championships. The results of the review were deeply troubling. They revealed that, for decades, NCAA prioritized men's sports over women's sports programs and created, normalized, and perpetuated fundamental inequities between their men's and women's programming. NCAA has ignored or rejected key recommendations from this external review and has failed to adequately implement systems to identify, prevent, and address these inequities.

The WINS Act would establish a 16-member congressional commission to comprehensively study equality in NCAA's operation of tournaments and other programs for which there are men's and women's divisions. The commission will present a final report with policy recommendations NCAA should adopt to promote equality and fairness between men's and women's programs and reforms Congress should consider to improve oversight of gender equality at the NCAA.

Specifically, the commission report to Congress must include:

- 1) A comparison of NCAA treatment of men's and women's teams in post-season tournaments and other student-athlete programs including venues and equipment provided for games and practices; lodging and transportation; media contracts; licensees, sponsors, and other fulfillment partners who deliver essential elements of the tournaments; and overall budgets;
- 2) An analysis of NCAA's constitution and policies that affect equality between men's and women's college sports teams; and
- 3) An overview of federal government support for NCAA and recommendations for improved federal oversight of NCAA's promotion of gender equality.

The bipartisan commission will be composed of members appointed by House and Senate leadership, with special consideration of individuals with experience or professional expertise in college sports, gender equality, or Title IX compliance and those who are former college athletes, coaches, or athletics administrators. The commission will engage with key stakeholders to conduct its study and inform its recommendations to Congress.

NCAA, which operates 90 championships in 24 sports across three divisions, has long evaded meaningful oversight of its operation of men's and women's collegiate sports. A transparent and comprehensive review of the NCAA operations is an important step toward greater accountability and sustained progress that will ensure that all student-athletes are afforded the same experience in college athletics, regardless of gender.

To cosponsor, please email Julie Jochem with Rep. Mikie Sherrill at Julie.Jochem@mail.house.gov.