

# September 2021 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Newsletter https://womensclearinghouse.org

(Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, September 28, 2021 (12:00-1:30 PM)

### "Redistricting, Gerrymandering and Voting Rights"

Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsdO2przMiGNBHh2119StBIPsyDHvi0XLI

The CWI noon zoom meeting on September 28th is an opportunity to learn more about "Redistricting, Gerrymandering and Voting Rights." Population data from the 2020 Census identified states whose population increased and states whose population decreased. That information informed each state with their share of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives until the next census in 2030. Knowledgeable speakers at this meeting will discuss the variety of State processes for drawing lines to identify their Congressional Districts, including possible gerrymandering.

Discussion on how voting rights of minority, poor voters and women political candidates are being targeted. These can be complex and opaque processes with massive ramifications, starting with an impact on the 2022 mid-term elections. Speakers will also discuss the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act HR-4 and HR 1 to counter the effect of the States who have enacted laws to inhibit voting rights.

This meeting was organized and will be moderated by CWI VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook with assistance from VP Diversity, Alotta Taylor.

Scheduled speakers are: Gerardo Vildostegui, an advisor with the Brennan Center's Voting Rights section; Demetrius Fisher from the League of Women Voters' "People Powered Fair Maps" campaign; Toni-Michelle Travis, a professor of political science at George Mason University; and Joseph N. Posimato, an Associate with Perkin Coe's Political Law Group who is litigating state voting law cases.

Please join our first meeting of this year by registering and coming to our noon 9/28 zoom meeting at

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsdO2przMiGNBHh2119StBIPsyDHvi0XLI

# Zoom Meeting Summary: Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) 6-22-21 Celebrating Title IX's 49th Birthday with the Reintroduction of the Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) in the 117th Congress



**Dr. Sue Klein**, Co-President CWI and Education Equity Director, Feminist Majority Foundation opened the meeting on June 22, 2021, with thanks to U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and U.S. Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA) for their plans to reintroduce the 2021 expanded Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) on June 23, 2021, the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Title IX. The recording of the meeting is <a href="here">here</a> on <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5</a> 2VvH8viZw. Congressional Information on the bills <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5">bills S. 2186</a> and is <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5">H.R. 4097</a> can be found on congress.gov.

Dr. Klein presented a brief history of attention to Women's/Gender Equity in the US Department of Education (ED) where she had worked for 34 years before joining the Feminist Majority Foundation in 2003. Here are some highlights from her talk.

Dr. Klein described how she worked on gender equity in education in the US Dept of Education (ED) (and its Office of Education predecessor) whenever she could. She worked in the National Institute of Education, Women's Research Team 1978-81 and was detailed to the National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs from 1981 to 1982. Other times she worked on gender equity assignments along with her dissemination and evaluation responsibilities. She learned how ED worked but was always disappointed that an important topic like Title IX and gender equity was given relatively little attention and resources. For example, Special Education, Indian Education and Bilingual Education had their own large offices and substantial budgeted programs but sex equity or gender equity did not.

The Gender Equity in Education Act has two major purposes:

- 1 To create an Office for Gender Equity reporting directly to the Secretary of ED to provide leadership and coordination for gender equity in education activities within the Department and with other federal agencies.
- 2. To manage a grants program with related dissemination, research, and evaluation components to facilitate an effective National Gender Equity Infrastructure with vertical and horizontal networks to help well trained Title IX Coordinators and their equity allies work well together to decrease and hopefully eliminate sex discrimination in and through education.
- Dr. Klein pointed out that there has never been an overall high-level **Office for Gender Equity in ED** although it has been proposed. In 1993 new federal gender equity funding initiatives were introduced as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. They included the creation of a Gender Equity Office with a full-time coordinator in ED, expansion of gender equity research and training and more resources for gender equity related to math and science, sexual harassment, and athletics.

In 1994 the US Department of ED Organization Act was changed to include a Special Assistant for Gender Equity (SAGE) to advise the Secretary and Deputy Secretary to promote and coordinate gender equity programs and provide technical assistance. However, there was not much attention to this position, and it has not been filled since end of Clinton Administration.

Over the years there have been various programs that funded some gender equity work in ED. Most well-known was the Women's Educational Equity Act, (WEEA) which was passed in 1974 and lasted until 2003. WEEA funded the development, evaluation, and dissemination of local model grants, and provided technical assistance though the WEEA resource center until 2003. The highest annual WEEA funding was \$10 million in 1980. WEEA funded 800 projects though nationally competitive grants. The WEEA office was mostly located within the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, but its programs could also fund postsecondary and adult education. Dr. Klein even monitored the WEEA Resource Center for a few years out of the ED research office and established a WEEA funded gender equity expert panel (1996-2002) to identify high quality effective programs to advance gender equity from any source.

Other ED gender equity funding included state level vocational education sex equity coordinators and some state sex equity programs, a small group of projects under the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education, and Civil Rights Act Title IV (CRA) equity technical assistance centers. In the early CRA Title IV years there were separate Sex Equity Technical Assistance Centers. In later years a small focus on sex equity was maintained when they formed combined Equity Assistance Centers which still exist today. The ED Office of Educational Research and Improvement also funded a Minorities and Women's R&D training program and the National Center for Education Statistics often disaggregated data by sex and other characteristics.

### Next Dr. Klein Discussed the **History related to key Purposes of the Grants Program focusing on Title IX**Coordinators and the National Gender Equity Infrastructure

The ED Office for Civil Rights (OCR) gave some attention to Title IX Coordinators but has never funded them. When Ken Marcus was Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in 2004, he wrote to post secondary institutions and superintendents of state education agencies and local school districts to remind them to designate Title IX Coordinators to carry out their responsibilities. This included notifying students and employees of the name, address, and telephone numbers of Title IX Coordinators. The WEEA Resource Center maintained a list of state Title IX Coordinators and aided Title IX Coordinators.

After urging from the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, the Obama Administration requested and posted contact information for post secondary institution's Title IX Coordinators as part of required Cleary Act reports and later requested information on school district Title IX Coordinators in the Civil Rights Data Collection. In 2015 OCR issued guidance on Title IX Coordinators roles and responsibilities. Regional OCR offices also offered training for Title IX Coordinators. The Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) in 2016 wrote *Reinvigorating the Role of the Title IX Coordinator: A Requirement and Resource* which pointed out that there need to be many more trained Title IX Coordinators in a supportive national infrastructure to fully implement Title IX. The report estimated there should be over 100,000 Title IX Coordinators if all entities responsible for implementing Title IX had a designated Title IX Coordinator to help them. ED in the Obama Administration made good progress in starting to pay attention to Title IX Coordinators, but never explicitly recommended that local pre K-12 schools should have their own Title IX Coordinators working with required school district level Title IX Coordinators. The Trump administration, under Education Secretary DeVos, rescinded the 2015 Title IX Coordinator guidance.

In 2010 Dr. Klein coauthored a Reauthorization Proposal for WEEA which was influential in the 2015 version of GEEA introduced by Senator Hirono and Representative Louise Slaughter. Help with implementing Title IX as specified in the expanded GEEA introduced on 6-23-21 is now needed more than ever. Congress needs to pass

the new GEEA soon or incorporate its provisions in other legislation, but the Department of Education can start some of the key components even before legislation such as:

- 1. implementing an Office for Gender Equity in ED
- 2. revising new guidance on Title IX Coordinators roles and responsibilities which should clarify that pre-K-12 schools responsible for implementing Title IX should have their own Title IX Coordinators who work with school district Title IX Coordinators who work with state education agency Title IX Coordinators. Horizontal networks of Title IX Coordinators should work with their peer Title IX Coordinators, other equity coordinators (specializing in race, disabilities and English language learners, sexual orientation and gender identity), school staff, parents and stakeholders and other equity allies.
- 3. Updating web databases that provide contact information on Title IX Coordinators so that they can be easily located by those they are supposed to protect from sex discrimination.



**Ben Strand**, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of U.S. Senator Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI) discussed the reintroduction of GEEA for the 117th Congress (2021-2022). It was first introduced in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress by Sen. Hirono and Representative Louise Slaughter.

He noted the major changes in this reintroduction of GEEA include some updating of the findings, new definitions of sex such as sexual orientation and gender identity which were considered, but not included, during the Trump administration, the listing of new



coordination responsibilities such as with the White House Gender Policy Council, and the expanded focus on developing a National Gender Equity Infrastructure. The new GEEA also doubled the authorization of appropriations to \$160 million annually with \$140 million reserved for the Title IX Coordinator focused grants program.

Ben Strand and Laura Forero in Representative Matsui's office have started signing up House and Senate Cosponsors listed on the Congress.gov website under the Bill numbers <u>S. 2186</u> and <u>H.R. 4097. Supporters are encouraged to contact your congress person to request they cosponsor this bicameral GEEA. Senator Hirono and Representative Matsui also issued this 6-23-21 press release.</u>

The following inserted article **Making Title IX's Promise a Reality with The Gender Equity Education Act** is in ms.magazine online on 6/24/2021, by Carrie N. Baker, J.D., Ph.D. It is based in large part on the Press Release on 6/23/21 from Sen. Hirono and Rep. Matsui.

The Gender Equity Education Act promises to make tangible advancements in gender equity by "creating equitable and welcoming school environments" for students.

The Gender Equity Education Act would provide Title IX Coordinators with annual trainings, information and best practices about Title IX compliance (USAID / Flickr)

On Wednesday, June 23—the 49th anniversary of Congress passing Title IX—Sen. Mazie K. Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Rep. Doris Matsui (D-Calif.) reintroduced the <u>Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in</u>

<u>Education Act of 2021</u> (GEEA). GEEA would provide funding and resources to finally realize Title IX's long-awaited promise of equality in education.

The late U.S. Representative Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii)—the first woman of color elected to the House of Representatives and the first Asian woman to serve in Congress—co-authored Title IX and was the driving force behind the law's passage. Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.), who died in 2018, was a fierce advocate for gender equity.

"Trailblazers Patsy Mink and Louise Slaughter spent their careers demanding better opportunities for all Americans, regardless of their gender. This bill builds on their legacy by providing more funding to address sexbased harassment and discrimination in education," <u>said</u> Hirono. "On the 49th anniversary of Title IX's enactment, Congress should act now to make sure that all students can learn in safe and supportive learning environments."

"Patsy Mink and Louise Slaughter were tireless warriors for equality and continue to serve as our north star for expanding opportunity and eradicating discrimination on the basis of sex in schools everywhere," <a href="mailto:said">said</a> Matsui. "Moving forward, it is our duty make sure that every child, regardless of gender, has the same opportunity to succeed."



### Rep. Doris Matsui, @ Doris Matsui

During the week of the 49th anniversary of #TitleIX, I join @maziehirono in reintroducing the Patsy T. Mink & Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act, which would provide resources, training, & technical assistance to combat harassment & discrimination in education.



Hirono and Matsui previously introduced the legislation in the <a href="115th">115th</a> and <a href="115th">116th</a> Congresses.

The bill would create an Office for Gender Equity inside the Department of Education tasked with developing new gender equity initiatives in schools and addressing pressing issues experienced by women and girls in education, including access to STEM education, athletics, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment and assault.

"There's never been very much federal leadership to implement Title IX," <u>said</u> Dr. Sue Klein, education equity director of the Feminist Majority Foundation, who is one of the leaders of effort. "This office would correct that."

#### What the Gender Equity in Education Act Will Do

According to Klein, the office would create a "proactive gender equity infrastructure of Title IX Coordinators and gender equity experts" with state Title IX coordinators, school district Title IX coordinators and hopefully a Title IX Coordinator in each post-secondary and K-12 school networked together for training, assessment, and as needed, enforcement of Title IX and related civil rights laws and best practices.

"GEEA has great potential for making a comprehensive and lasting impact on improving gender equity in and through education," <u>said</u> Klein. "Using existing legislation, GEEA should inspire the Education Department to establish an Office for Gender Equity and issue new guidance on the roles and responsibilities of Title IX Coordinators in a Title IX Gender Equity Infrastructure even before GEEA is passed."

GEEA would provide critical funding to support Title IX coordinators. Nationally, the Feminist Majority Foundation has estimated at least 100,000 Title IX Coordinators are needed, but a report only identified 23,000 Title IX Coordinators in 2016. The Feminist Majority Foundation also found that schools serving children in prekindergarten through grade 12 rarely have their own Title IX Coordinators. GEEA would provide Title IX Coordinators with annual trainings, information and best practices about Title IX compliance.

"For decades, school and college-based Title IX administrators have worked diligently with the limited resources available to them to implement the aims of Title IX," <u>said</u> Brett Sokolow, President of Association of Title IX Administrators (ATIXA). "ATIXA calls on Congress to pass the GEEA to provide Title IX administrators with the essential resources, training and financial support needed to fully deliver on Title IX's promise of sex and gender equity in education and thanks Sen. Hirono for championing the passage of this bill."

The bill would protect students who face discrimination based on actual or perceived sex, including sex stereotypes; pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions; and sexual orientation or gender identity. It would also focus on eliminating compounded discrimination based on race, disability, immigration, English Language Learners, LGBTQ status and poverty.

"Despite the passage of Title IX, women and girls of color continue to experience barriers to education at higher rates when compared to their white counterparts," <u>said</u> Elisha Rhodes, interim CEO at YWCA USA. "If we truly intend to achieve equity in education, we must continue to provide resources and technical assistance that will center the impacts and experiences faced by women and girls of color. That begins with passage of the Gender Equity in Education Act."

#### **Increasing Equity in Athletics**

GEEA would also support increased equity in athletics. Despite 49 years of Title IX, female participation rates in athletics still lag far behind male participation rates, especially for girls of color. Boys, for example, receive more than 1.3 million more opportunities to play high school sports than girls across the nation.

"Access to equal sports opportunities for our female students is an integral part of affording a well-rounded, effective education, as girls and young women who play sports are healthier, graduate at higher rates, and go on to experience greater workplace success as adults," <a href="mailto:said">said</a> Kim Turner, director and senior staff attorney of Fair Play for Girls in Sports, a project of nonprofit Legal Aid at Work. "GEEA can be a key component to promoting educational equality and societal wellness for all."

GEEA allocates \$160 million of funding over five years to enforce Title IX, including funding competitive grants for K-12 schools, colleges and universities, states, school districts and other educational organizations to boost Title IX compliance programs.

"Title IX became law on this day 49 years ago, and we celebrate the advances made in education to ensure that all students, including women and girls, have equal access to education," <u>said</u> Shiwali Patel, director of Justice for Student Survivors and senior counsel of the National Women's Law Center. "However, much remains to be done to eliminate sex discrimination and bias in schools, and GEEA brings us closer towards achieving this and creating equitable and welcoming school environments."

Another related article is from the Feminist Majority Foundation news wire.

### Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Board Members elected in 2020 and 2021 for 2 year terms were re-elected at June 22, 2021 Meeting and held a CWI Board Meeting, Aug. 5, 2021

At the end of the 6-22-21 meeting, members of the CWI elected half of the CWI BOARD for 2 yr. terms July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. The following CWI board members whose terms end in June 30, 2021 were re-elected:

Co-Presidents Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla. Connie also agreed to serve as VP Membership.

Anne Martin has agreed to continue as VP Organization Management

Alotta Taylor, has agree to continue as VP Diversity. Sherry Klein has agreed to continue as VP Technology. Linda Fihelly has agreed to continue as a Board Member. Harriett Stonehill is remaining on the Board as President Emeritus.



**CWI Board Members attending in person Board Meeting on 8-5-21:** Front row left to right: Anne Martin, VP Organizational Management; Harriett Stonehill, Pres. Emerita; Sue Klein, Co-President; Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Legal Affairs; Back row left to right: Connie Cordovilla, Co-President and VP Membership; Alotta Taylor, VP Diversity; Sherry Klein, VP Technology; Sheila Wickouski, Secretary









Board Members Attending 8-5 Board Meeting on Zoom (left to right): Linda Fihelly and Treasurer, Holly Joseph. Other Board Members Megan Corrado, VP Global Issues and Loretta Gubernatis, VP Media Relations

# We Thank Susan Scanlan for her Many Feminist Contributions and Mourn her Passing. By Anne Martin, CWI VP Organizational Management

Our community lost a strong voice and unflinching advocate for women and feminist issues in July. Susan Scanlan passed away peacefully in Texas surrounded by her family. Her husband of 40 years, Jared Cameron, preceded her in death. Many of us knew Susan from her eight years as Chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations (a coalition of progressive women's groups). She was a frequent speaker on news outlets and interviews with The Washington Post and the New York Times discussing Title IX, women in combat and health care for women. Most recently she was a Visiting Scholar for the State Department, collaborating with women to encourage them to run for office and to advocate for legislation promoting gender equality.

Susan helped author legislation admitting women to the U.S. military academies and establishing March of each year as Women's History Month. Susan helped found the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and the Women's Research & Education Institute. She accompanied her husband to Asia for seven years where she taught and wrote a monthly magazine column. President Bill Clinton named Susan to the Advisory Committee on Employment Training for Veterans at the Department of Labor. She received the Women's Leadership Award from the International Women's Democracy Center along with then Secretary of State John Kerry. She was on the Board of the National Women's History Museum. Susan was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Sweet Briar College and earned a Master's Degree in Modern Languages from Tulane University. Susan will be missed by all who knew her and her work for women and women's rights remains as a tribute to her memory. Remembrances in Susan's memory may be made to the Women's Congressional Policy Institute.

#### DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to <a href="mailto:sklein@feminist.org">sklein@feminist.org</a>. LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook <a href="mailto:www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse">www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse</a> and Twitter <a href="www.twitter.com/CWINews">www.twitter.com/CWINews</a> pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross">https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross</a>. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on feminist meetings and activities. Times given are Eastern Time.

#### **Events:**

Tue Sept. 7, 8 PM Afghanistan: What Next? A Zoom Discussion with Sonali Kolhtkar and Phyllis Bennis. Sponsored by CODEPINK CONGRESS CALLING PARTY. RSVP

Wed-Sept 8-10. My Name is Pauli Murray Exclusive Screening and Discussion, sponsored by National Women's History Museum and the ERA Coalition/Fund for Women's Equality. <a href="Purchase Tickets">Purchase Tickets</a> for \$20 preorder <a href="https://watch.eventive.org/era/play/611bf4ef3cb3d10053b1fc7d?m=1">https://watch.eventive.org/era/play/611bf4ef3cb3d10053b1fc7d?m=1</a>

Another discussion of this film is sponsored by the Smithsonian African American History and Culture Museum is from 7-8 PM. Free Register

Sat. Sept. 11, 10 AM 2 PM Online Introduction to Restorative Justice. Register DC Peace Team, Contribution Expected.

Sun. Sept. 12, 2-4 PM In Person- Women's Suffrage Marker Dedication, Sandy Spring Museum, 17901 Bentley Rd., Sandy Spring, MD 20860, honors Mary Bentley Thomas and Carolyn Hallowell Miller. Speaker

Wed. Sept. 15, 4 PM National Girls Collaborative Project National Webinar: Addressing STEM Stereotypes and Biases: Facilitating Challenging Conversations with Youth. Register

Sat. Sept. 18, 1:30-6:30 pm. Zoom Active Bystander Intervention Training, DC Peace Team. Register <a href="https://www.sandyspringmuseum.org/event/in-person-womens-suffrage-marker-dedication/">https://www.sandyspringmuseum.org/event/in-person-womens-suffrage-marker-dedication/</a> Contribution expected.

Sun. Sept. 19, 3 PM One Year Later: Honoring the Life and Legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Free but advance registration required. Sponsored by the National Women's History Museum

Sat. Sept. 25, 2-3:30 Memorial Service for Linda Mahoney, F.Scott Fitzgerald Theater (603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD 20950). Followed by a reception 3:30-5 PM, World of Beer. Register <a href="https://linda-mahoney-celebration-of-life.eventbrite.com">https://linda-mahoney-celebration-of-life.eventbrite.com</a>

Sun. Sept. 26, 7:30 PM In Person free screen live performance from Arena Stage at Nationals Park in DC, the Play, Toni Stone. Reserve <a href="https://www/arenastage.org/tonistonenatspark">https://www/arenastage.org/tonistonenatspark</a>. Toni Stone was the first woman to play baseball in the Negro Leagues.

Sat. Oct. 2 March for Reproductive Rights Washington, DC and many other cities. Sponsored by Women's March and others. Details to come.

CWI's newsletter is endowed in loving memory of our previous longtime editor, Roslyn Kaiser Meeting summary by Sheila Wickouski and many of the Meeting Presenters. Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

### CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2021

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla also VP Membership; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary, Sheila Wickouski; VP Global Issues, Megan Corrado; VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis; VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Technology, Sherry Klein; VP Organizational Management, Anne Martin; VP Diversity, Alotta Taylor; Director, Linda Fihelly; DIRECTOR EMERITA: Elaine Newman; EX OFFICIO: Co-President, Harriett Stonehill Copyright© 2021 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI). All rights reserved.

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### **Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Membership Form**

https://womensclearinghouse.org/

The CWI membership year is: **July 1-June 30.** Multi-year and Gift memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in beginning and end years (e.g. 2020-2023 for a 3-yr membership). Members will receive CWI newsletters and meeting announcements as well as other feminist news and event notifications. Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

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			(< 30 yrs. old)	(outside DC area)
One-year	\$25	\$40	\$15/yr.	
Two-year	\$45	\$70	\$15/yr. \$20/yr.  Gift Membership (insert information in individual	
Three-year	\$65	\$100	or organization membership)	
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- Mail form & check to Connie Cordovilla, Membership Chair, CWI, 7439 Patterson Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043-1332; or
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- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)