

# IN RECOGNITION OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

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HON. DANNY K. DAVIS  
OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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- Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment this week to recognize the thirty-seventh anniversary of Title IX. When I think of this historic legislation that champions equal rights for women, I am reminded of something Betty Friedan said in her book, the *Feminine Mystique*. She said, "The problem that has no name--which is simply the fact that American women are kept from growing to their full human capacities--is taking a far greater toll on the physical and mental health of our country than any known disease." Ms. Friedan--a leader of the women's rights movement and a founding member of the National Organization for Women--described an ongoing battle; a battle that has plagued our country for far too long.

- Title IX was enacted with the purpose of removing the barriers that could negatively constrict the potential of over 50% of our population. This monumental advance in equal rights for women was passed on June 23, 1972, with the goal of prohibiting gender discrimination in education programs, especially concerning athletic opportunities for young men and women. I have time and time again commended this milestone in U.S. legislation for empowering women to engage and contribute positively to society as well as for encouraging women to make responsible decisions.

- Upon celebrating the thirty-seventh anniversary of Title IX, it is only right to recognize what has thus far been accomplished since the enactment of Title IX in 1972. In the arena of athletics, we have seen tremendous increases in the participation of women in sports. In 1972, there were merely 294,000 female high school athletic participants, in contrast to the 3.6 million male participants; now, looking at 2006, there has been a 904% increase with just under 3 million female high school athletes. In 1972, only about 30,000 women continued on to collegiate athletic participation, compared to 170,000 male participants. But in 2006, that number also increased exponentially, by 456%, to 167,000 female collegiate participants. In the world of business, the percentage of women general counsels in Fortune 500 companies rose from 4% to 15% between 1994 and 2002. Within the legal profession, the percentage of women in tenured positions at law schools increased from 5.9% in 1994 to 25.1% in 2006. In addition, I am certain that Title IX laid the foundation for other advancements in equal rights for women, such as the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 that President Obama signed into law this January and that I proudly co-sponsored.

- Even with this progress, the United States still has quite a

journey ahead toward the goal of equality for women. There still exists resistance to efforts to treat women and men equally. Even now there is still a remarkably large gap between the number of female and male high school and collegiate sports participants. Beyond athletics, there still exists gender inequality in the work force on multiple fronts, including: the ratio of male to female professionals; the difference in the earnings of male and female employees; and the ratio of male to female leadership positions in the workforce. It is true that in 2003 female professional earnings had risen to 76% of what their male counterparts were making; nevertheless, 76% is still far less than 100%.

So, I celebrate the advances made during the thirty-seven years since Title IX was enacted, and I promise to continue to dedicate my time and efforts to champion equal rights for women.