



EDUCATION

Title IX compliance revamped

Bill Bumpas and Jody Brown - OneNewsNow - 4/21/2010 8:45:00 AM [ADD THIS](#)



The U.S. Department of Education is repealing a Bush administration provision in the Title IX policy that governs gender equality in sports.

In the Bush-era in 2005, a provision allowed schools and universities to show they were in compliance with Title IX by surveying female students to gauge interest in participating in sports. But now schools must provide stronger evidence of "non-discrimination," according to the Obama administration.

In a [13-page "Dear Colleague" letter](#) [PDF] yesterday, the DOE's Office for Civil Rights explained that schools will need to demonstrate the participation of women in athletics is proportionate to their numbers on campus -- and how those athletic programs are increasing opportunities for women.

[The Cato Institute's](#) Neal McCluskey tells OneNewsNow that there is really no need to have Title IX.

"The way women should express whether or not they want sports is simply what school they choose to go to," McCluskey states.

"If it's really important to have intercollegiate athletic opportunities, they would choose schools that offer them -- and those [schools] that didn't would be punished because they wouldn't get as many paying students as they would want or need."



McCluskey

According to the Cato spokesman, colleges have huge incentives to offer women what they want. "[T]he fact of the matter is women are now about 57 percent of all four-year school undergraduates -- so they're the ones with the power and the market to determine what a school does or does not offer," he argues.

McCluskey says he believes Title IX supporters do not want women to take a survey to express their interest in playing sports because it might reveal that women do not want to play as much as men. As he points out, three to four times as many men as women are participating in college intramural sports, which are open to anyone.



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