Written Statement of

Lisa Maatz
Vice President of Government Relations
American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Title IX Athletic Equity Act (B20-469)

Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Education

February 5, 2014

Chairman Catania and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit input about the proposed Title IX Athletic Equity Act (Bill 20-0469). As Vice President of Government Relations at American Association of University Women and a long-time resident of the District of Columbia’s Ward 2, I write in strong support of this legislation. AAUW’s first branch was founded in D.C. in 1884 and we now have over 1000 branches nation-wide with over 170,000 members and supporters. AAUW has almost 800 members and supporters in D.C., many of whom have sent email messages to the D.C. Council in support of this legislation. AAUW’s member-adopted public policy programs calls for the “vigorous enforcement of Title IX,” which bans sex discrimination in education, including athletic opportunities.

This bill requires public and charter K-12 schools to report the gender breakdown for student athletic participation and expenditures for sports programs on a public website. It would also create new regulations establishing grievance procedures, require public disclosure of district- and school-based Title IX athletic coordinators, and instruct the Mayor to develop a strategic plan for D.C. schools to comply with Title IX.

Most D.C. public schools have at least a 10 percent disparity between the number of girls enrolled and the athletic opportunities offered to them, with the disparity reaching up to 25 percent at some schools. Even when girls do play, they are likely to receive less experienced coaches, poorer playing fields, less scholarship counseling, and less expenditure on their sport in general.

This is unacceptable, and the D.C. City Council should end this disparity. The Title IX Athletic Equity Act requires transparent reporting on all of these issues to a website so students, parents, and teachers can hold schools accountable.

Title IX athletic compliance is more than just a head count. It requires real and robust accountability. Studies have shown that girls and women who participate in sports are less likely to get pregnant, drop out of school, do drugs, smoke, or develop mental illnesses. All D.C. students need these opportunities to thrive. This is why AAUW strongly supports the passage of
the Title IX Athletic Equity Act (Bill 20-0469).

Thank you for this opportunity. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202/785-7720, or Erin Prangley, associate director of government relations, at 202/785-7730, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Maatz
D.C. Resident, Ward 2 and
AAUW Vice President for Government Relations

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