

NCWGE NATIONAL COALITION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN EDUCATION

PRESERVE FUNDING FOR THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ACT

November 19, 2003

Dear Appropriations Conferee,

On behalf of the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE), a nonprofit coalition of more than 50 organizations dedicated to improving educational opportunities for girls and women, we urge you to maintain funding for the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) as you negotiate differences between the House and Senate Labor/HHS Appropriations bills.

We were disappointed that neither the President's budget nor the House Labor/HHS Appropriations bill provided funding for WEEA. It is because we know these funds are vital to the implementation of critical and sound educational standards that **NCWGE recommends that the House agree to the Senate funding level of \$2.98 million for WEEA.**

WEEA represents the federal commitment to helping schools eradicate sex discrimination from their programs and practices and to ensuring that girls' future choices and successes are determined not by their gender, but by their interests, aspirations, and abilities. Since its inception in 1974, WEEA has funded research, development, and dissemination of curricular materials, including training programs, guidance and testing activities, and other projects to combat inequitable educational practices. WEEA funds grant programs primarily for local implementation of gender-fair policies and educational models. These activities have been important in assisting educational agencies with their obligation to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Thus, WEEA activities are aligned with the core mission of the No Child Left Behind Act to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lynsey Morris, Government Relations Manager, American Association of University Women, at 202/785-7730.

Sincerely,



Lisa Maatz
Chair, NCWGE
American Association of University Women



Jocelyn Samuels
Vice-Chair, NCWGE
National Women's Law Center