

Advocacy Update

November 15 – November 20, 2010

Acceptance of GW transgender basketball player a good life lesson (November 16) - George Washington's Kye Allums made history last weekend by becoming the first openly transgender player in NCAA hoops history to suit up in a game when the Colonials played a pair of games in a tournament in Minnesota. Allums is biologically female, but identifies as male. Allums has changed his name from Kay-Kay to Kye and has plans to undergo a medical gender transition after college. Kye is holding off on the procedure because he wants to be able to keep his scholarship on the women's team and just wants to play ball. The reaction by both the NCAA and GW has been unconditionally positive. [Read more.](#)

D.C. Council hears testimony, eyes District schools' compliance with Title IX (November 10) - More than a dozen witnesses testified over a three-hour span before the D.C. Council's Committee of the Whole on a bill aimed to make sure District public schools are in compliance with Title IX.

Bill 18-552, the "Title IX Athletic Compliance Act of 2009," proposed nearly a year ago, seeks to authorize a survey of all District public schools - both traditional and charter - from elementary through high school to determine whether each complies with Title IX. The bill also would create a strategic plan for compliance and require another analysis after five years to gauge improvements.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the testimony (it is 3 hours long just as a word of warning, but I've listened to a portion of it and it is pretty interesting). Scroll to **11/10/2010 PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman and click View Meeting.

The bill has been sent back to committee and a timetable for vote was not given, but I will keep an eye on it and keep everyone posted. The next meeting of the Council is on December 21, 2010. [Read more.](#)

OCR says institutions obligated by law to end harassment (November 18) – The actual letter was released on October 28th, this is a summary: Bullying could be a violation of civil rights, and schools and universities are obligated to take appropriate steps to end harassment, according to a recent clarification letter issued by the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Although race, sex and disability are the only characteristics triggering obligation under civil rights law, the letter encourages schools to also appropriately address discrimination and violence of all types, including those related to sexual orientation. [Read more.](#)

USC to add women's lacrosse (November 18) – Starting in 2012-2013 the USC Trojans will have a women's lacrosse team. It will be the 12th women's sport offered at USC. [Read more.](#)

Sports officials to issue guidelines on ambiguous gender cases (November 19) - International sports officials are completing guidelines on how to deal with athletes with ambiguous sexual characteristics. Arne Ljungqvist, chairman of the IOC's medical commission, said rules on gender determination will be issued soon. Ljungqvist said the rules will apply for the 2012 London Olympics and also serve as

recommendations for all international federations to follow in their own sports. Ljungqvist declined to give details of the recommendations, saying they are still under consideration and likely will be submitted for approval to the International Olympic Committee executive board in January. [Read more.](#)

NCAA explores ways to curb violence (November 18) – President Mark Emmert met with the National Coalition Against Violent Athletes on Wednesday, November 17th. The group has sent a formal proposal to the NCAA Executive Committee. It calls on the NCAA to take disciplinary action against student-athletes who have engaged in inappropriate conduct such as rape, sexual assault, domestic violence or sexual harassment. The proposal may be considered at the NCAA Convention in January. [Read more.](#)