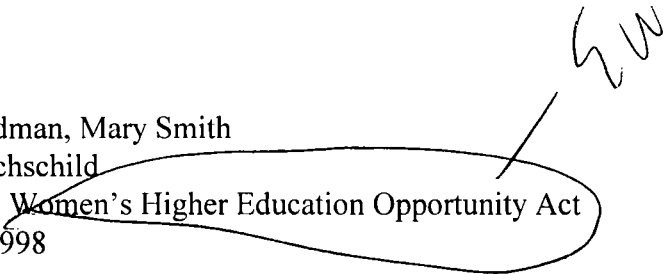


TO: Tom Freedman, Mary Smith
FROM: David Hochschild
RE: Update on Women's Higher Education Opportunity Act
DATE: June 11, 1998



It turns out that the sponsors of the Women's Higher Education Opportunity Act of 1998 (H.R.3293), which contained a number of promising components, never intended for it to be voted on. Rep. Kildee (D-MI) introduced it as a tool to get some of its provisions put into the Higher Education Opportunity Act, which is being reauthorized this year. The HEA reauthorization bill (HR 6) was passed in the House on May 8. It contains four of the six main provisions of the Women's Higher Education Opportunity Act.

The provisions seem so terrific that I'm a little puzzled as to how it passed the House. The best of these is the \$60 million for child-care for low-income female students at institutions of higher learning. The money, which will be awarded by the Secretary of Education, is intended to support or establish child-care programs on campus for all students who are eligible for Pell grants. Since lack of child care is a principal barrier for low-income women seeking an education, this seems worth fighting for. I don't know if the President has publicly pressed the Senate to pass a similar version of the HEA authorization but it would make sense because many of the items in it are also on the Administration's agenda.

HR 6 also contains a provision that would increase the dependent care allowance for Pell Grant recipients from \$750 to \$1500, which would shield more money from financial aid calculations. And it includes funding to combat violent crime against women on campuses (for training of security personell, prevention programs etc.).

Both of the items from HR3293 that did not make it into the HEA reauthorization - funding for a Dept. of Education study on sexual assault and funding for women's athletics - seem less crucial than the provisions that did make it in. The main lobbying firepower behind all this is the American Association of University Women which apparently wrote the bill. There is not yet a Senate companion piece to HR 6, though Sen. Murray and Sen. Kennedy are expected to sponsor one.