

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, petition of Antonio F. D. Cabral and Benjamin Swan for legislation to promote gender equity in educational programs in the Commonwealth. Education, Arts and Humanities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and One.

AN ACT TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUITY IN EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The General Court finds and declares that:
2 (a) gender bias is widespread in educational programs in
3 Massachusetts, and such inequities have a disproportionately neg-
4 ative impact on women and girls; and
5 (b) gender equity training is one of the most effective means of
6 eliminating inequitable practices in our state's schools.

1 SECTION 2. Subsection 1L of section 29 of Chapter 71 of the
2 acts of 1993 is hereby amended in paragraph one by inserting the
3 following sentence at the end thereof:—
4 Comprehensive interdisciplinary health education and human
5 service programs shall include programs and policies to address
6 sexual harassment and violence against women and girls, including,
7 but not limited to, acquaintance rape and violence prevention.

1 SECTION 3. Subsection 1G of section 3 of Chapter 71 of the
2 acts of 1993 is further amended by inserting after the phrase
3 "racial imbalance;," the phrase "gender equity;".

1 SECTION 4. Subsection 1G of section 3 of Chapter 71 of the
2 acts of 1993 is further amended by inserting the following para-
3 graph at the end thereof:—
4 The advisory council on gender equity shall consist of members
5 who are comprehensively knowledgeable in the areas of gender-role

6 socialization impacts on the educational needs of children and
7 gender-equitable policy. The council shall coordinate training pro-
8 grams for teachers and other instructional personnel regarding
9 gender-equitable teaching methods, the promotion of leadership of
10 girls and young women, and policies to encourage the participation
11 of girls and young women in those classes and fields which are tra-
12 ditionally male-dominated, including, but not limited to science,
13 technology, math, computers and vocational education. The council
14 shall make recommendations to the commissioner and the depart-
15 ment regarding the implementation of such training programs.