

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 359**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Antonio F.D. Cabral**

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

**An Act to Promote Gender Equity in Education.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Antonio F.D. Cabral	13th Bristol
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex
Christine E. Canavan	10th Plymouth
Alice K. Wolf	25th Middlesex
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera	10th Hampden
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk
Ruth B. Balser	12th Middlesex
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Susan C. Fargo	Third Middlesex
Cory Atkins	14th Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 398 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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### 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 The General Court finds and declares that:

2 (a) gender bias is widespread in educational programs in Massachusetts, and such inequities have  
3 a disproportionately negative impact on women and girls; and

4 (b) gender equity training is one of the most effective means of eliminating inequitable practices  
5 in our state's schools.

6 SECTION 2. Subsection 1L of section 29 of Chapter 71 of the acts of 1993 is hereby amended in  
7 paragraph one by inserting the following sentence at the end thereof:—

8 Comprehensive interdisciplinary health education and human service programs shall include  
9 programs and policies to address sexual harassment and violence against women and girls,  
10 including, but not limited to, acquaintance rape and violence prevention.

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

13 SECTION 4. Subsection 1G of section 3 of Chapter 71 of the acts of 1993 is further amended by  
14 inserting the following paragraph at the end thereof:—

15 The advisory council on gender equity shall consist of members who are comprehensively  
16 knowledgeable in the areas of gender-role socialization impacts on the educational needs of  
17 children and gender-equitable policy. The council shall coordinate training programs for teachers  
18 and other instructional personnel regarding gender-equitable teaching methods, the promotion of  
19 leadership of girls and young women, and policies to encourage the participation of girls and  
20 young women in those classes and fields which are traditionally male-dominated, including, but  
21 not limited to science, technology, math, computers and vocational education. The council shall  
22 make recommendations to the commissioner and the department regarding the implementation of  
23 such training programs.