

### U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights

Dr. Miguel Cardona Secretary of Education, Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202 Phone (202) 401 – 3000 ocr@ed.gov

Catherine Lhamon, J.D. Ass't Secretary, Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202 - 1100 <u>Catherine.lhamon@ed.gov</u>

Suzanne B. Goldberg, J.D. Acting Ass't Secretary, Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202 - 1100 <u>Suzanne.goldberg@ed.gov</u>

### ADMINISTRATIVE CLASS COMPLAINT

### **COMPLAINANT**

Champion Women Nancy Hogshead, J.D., OLY, CEO EMAIL: <u>Hogshead@ChampionWomen.org</u>

### **RECIPIENT**

Stevenson University Brett Adams, Director of Athletics 100 Campus Circle Owings Mills, MD 21117 EMAIL: <u>bcadams@stevenson.edu</u>

Elliot Lee Hirshman, President 10945 Boulevard Circle Owings Mills, MD 21117 EMAIL: reslifereception@stevenson.edu

## I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This complaint is filed by *Champion Women*, pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.* ("Title IX") and the regulations and policies promulgated thereunder. *See* 34 C.F.R. § 106 *et seq.* Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in federally funded education programs and activities, including athletics.

2. *Champion Women* is a 501(c)(3) that provides legal advocacy for girls and women in sports.

3. As detailed in the Factual and Legal Allegations below, data submitted by Stevenson University ("Stevenson") to the Office of Postsecondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education pursuant to the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act ("EADA"), 20 U.S.C. § 1092, as well as information collected from Stevenson's website indicates that Stevenson is discriminating on the basis of sex by providing unequal athletic participation opportunities and unequal athletic recruitment funding for its female students.

4. In order to address these disparities, *Champion Women* requests that the Office for Civil Rights ("OCR") investigate Stevenson to determine whether Stevenson is discriminating against women; whether it is providing women equal opportunities to participate in varsity sports and equivalent recruitment funding as required by Title IX and, if not, to remedy any unlawful conduct.

# II. JURISDICTION

5. The OCR is responsible for ensuring compliance with Title IX and receiving information about, investigating, and remedying violations of Title IX and its implementing regulations and guidelines. 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.71, 100.7.

6. *Champion Women* has not filed this complaint with any other agency or institution.

7. As Stevenson currently violates Title IX's athletic equity requirements, this complaint is timely.

# III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

8. Stevenson receives federal financial assistance and is therefore prohibited from discriminating on the basis of sex pursuant to Title IX.

9. Data submitted by Stevenson to the U.S. Department of Education pursuant to the EADA that is publicly available on the Office of Postsecondary Education website for academic years 2003-04 through 2021-2022 indicates that Stevenson is not currently and has not in the

past been providing female athletes equal opportunities to participate in athletics under Title IX's three-part participation test.

10. *Champion Women* has edited the EADA data in just one instance: to remove male practice players who are counted up in the tally as "women". These male practice players are not female athletes and have therefore been subtracted from the totals in the EADA.<sup>1</sup>

11. Stevenson does not and has not provided athletic opportunities to female students in numbers substantially proportionate to their enrollment pursuant to part one of the Title IX participation test. Women are 62.04% of the student body, but just 39.7% of the student-athletes.

	Undergraduate Enrollment						Athletic Participation		
Year	Men	Women	Total	Percent Women	Men	Women Prong 2: This # should Rise Continuousl y and Steadily Over Time, Without Going Backwards	Total	Percent Women	Female Athletes Who Would Need to be Added to Achieve
2003-04	597	1463	2060	71.02%	100	130	230	56.52%	115
2004-05	608	1520	2128	71.43%	122	108	230	46.96%	197
2005-06	689	1605	2294	69.97%	147	133	280	47.50%	209
2006-07	762	1649	2411	68.39%	150	124	274	45.26%	201
2007-08	799	1747	2546	68.62%	166	132	298	44.30%	231
2008-09	800	1796	2596	69.18%	177	154	331	46.53%	243
2009-10	842	1777	2619	67.85%	174	140	314	44.59%	227
2010-11	1028	1922	2950	65.15%	237	173	410	42.20%	270
2011-12	1195	2006	3201	62.67%	379	166	545	30.46%	470
2012-13	1196	2031	3227	62.94%	379	197	576	34.20%	447
2013-14	1224	2064	3288	62.77%	402	195	597	32.66%	483
2014-15	1172	2031	3203	63.41%	407	228	635	35.91%	477
2015-16	1100	2022	3122	64.77%	472	282	754	37.40%	586
2016-17	1094	1971	3065	64.31%	495	279	774	36.05%	613
2017-18	1049	1877	2926	64.15%	462	291	753	38.65%	536
2018-19	1018	1690	2708	62.41%	471	277	748	37.03%	505
2019-20	1041	1683	2724	61.78%	410	285	695	41.01%	378
2020-21	1013	1667	2680	62.20%	456	271	727	37.28%	479
2021-22	993	1623	2616	62.04%	445	293	738	39.70%	434

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See *Champion Women* website for every college and university receiving federal funds:

https://titleixschools.com/2023/05/20/eada-data/ High school data for these schools receiving federal funds is available here: https://titleixschools.com/2023/06/06/check-your-high-school/

12. In 2021-2022, the most recent academic year for which EADA data is available that is not corrupted by disruptions related to Covid-19, Stevenson's participation gap was 434 female athletes. In other words, Stevenson must add 434 additional athletic opportunities for women in order to provide athletic opportunities substantially proportionate to enrollment. To put this in perspective, if the average sports team is 25 athletes – some more and some less – Stevenson would need to add over 17 new teams for its female students. Meanwhile, Stevenson added 345 men to its athletic department over the 19 years. 345 additional male athletes is more athletes than women have ever been provided.

13. The EADA data and evidence gathered on Stevenson's website show that Stevenson does not have a history and continuing practice of expanding athletic participation opportunities for women pursuant to Prong 2 of the Title IX participation test. The number of women athletes does not consistently increase over time.

14. Over the 19 academic years covered by the available EADA data, Stevenson's opportunities for women have gone up and down. Stevenson backslid in 2004 by 22 athletes, 2006, 2009 by 14 athletes, 2011, and 2018 by 14 athletes. These setbacks are all the size of an athletic team. *Champion Women* cannot know the history of adding and dropping sports since 1975, but it is unlikely to show a history of continuous program expansion that is demonstratively responsive to the growing interests of women in sport.

15. A review of Stevenson's website did not cover any policy or procedure for adding new sports or elevating existing club sports to varsity status. Nor did it reveal any athletic gender equity plan, or any gender equity committee.

16. Stevenson sponsors 11 men's varsity sports (Baseball, Basketball, Football, Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Volleyball) and 14 women's varsity sports (Acrobatics and Tumbling, Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Ice Hockey, Track, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, and Volleyball).

17. Information available on Stevenson's website suggests that the university is not accommodating the interests and abilities of female athletes as required by part three of the Title IX participation test.

18. Stevenson women participate in the club sports of equestrian, baseball, dance, cheerleading, volleyball, soccer, dodgeball, cycling, and step. The existence of these club teams for women indicates that there may be unmet interest in women's athletics at Stevenson. <u>Stevenson University - Clubs and Organizations (smartcatalogiq.com)</u>

19. Sport Governing Bodies and the NCAA, for member schools, make it very easy to see where other competitors are located. The NCAA publishes the "NCAA Sports Sponsorship

and Participation Rates Report, 1956 - 2022" for schools to find competitors within the school's normal competitive region: NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report.<sup>2</sup>

20. Rugby, Equestrian, Triathlon, and Wrestling are NCAA emerging sports. There are 163 college women's Wrestling programs, 42 NCAA schools sponsor Triathlon, 26 colleges sponsor women's varsity Equestrian, and at least 32 colleges currently sponsor women's varsity Rugby.

21. Stevenson is a member of the Middle Atlantic Conference. There are currently 16 colleges that are members of the conference located in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey, a large, college-dense, competitive geographic region for Stevenson to find competitors for its new women's teams.

22. Other members of the Middle Atlantic Conference sponsor Rowing which is sponsored by other Division III schools in the same geographic location.

23. High school-age girls in Maryland compete in a vast number of sports, including Badminton, Gymnastics, and Wrestling, <u>https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/states/MD</u> Stevenson does not sponsor any of these sports. Women have therefore demonstrated their interest and athletic ability in these sports. Competition for these women's sports exists in Stevson's competitive geographic area.

These Maryland girls in high school are provided very few college sports opportunities. According to the NCAA,<sup>3</sup> in 2020, only 1.7% of high school girls' basketball players were provided the opportunity to play in Division III, nationally. Just 5.8% of high school Field

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/research/sportpart/2022RES_SportsSponsorshipParticipationRatesReport.pdf					
See individual sports' governing bodies for more, e.g.,					
Women's College Rugby: https://www.urugby.com/teams/womens-teams					
Collegiate Equestrian: https://collegiateequestrian.com/sports/2020/5/6/schools.aspx					
Women's Collegiate Wrestling: https://wrestlelikeagirl.org/college-opportunities					
Collegiate Competitive Cheer Teams: https://www.ncsasports.org/cheerleading/colleges (not to be confused					
with sideline cheerleading)					
Women's Collegiate Triathlon: https://www.usatriathlon.org/multisport/ncaa-triathlon					
Collegiate Sailing is governed by the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) with 220 schools:					
https://www.collegesailing.org/about/overview_					
Women's Collegiate Ice Hockey: https://www.uscho.com/teams/#d1women					
Collegiate Field Hockey: https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Field-Hockey/PLAYERS/College/Team-Websites					
Collegiate Synchronized/ Artistic Swimming: https://www.collegexpress.com/lists/list/colleges-with-					
notable-synchronized-swimming-teams/581/					
Collegiate Bowling - https://collegebowling.bowl.com/teams					
Collegiate Rifle - https://competitions.nra.org/competitions/nra-national-matches/collegiate-					
championships/collegiate-shooting-sports-directory/					
Collegiate Skiing – <u>https://www.uscsa.org/</u>					
Collegiate Water Polo - https://collegiatewaterpolo.org/					
Collegiate Women's Gymnastics https://www.ncaa.com/sports/gymnastics-women					
<sup>3</sup> NCAA: Estimated Probability of Competing in College Athletics:					

https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2015/3/2/estimated-probability-of-competing-in-college-athletics.aspx

Champion Women, Sex Discrimination in Athletics in Violation of Title IX, 2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See

Hockey players, 2.1% of Golfers, 16.2% of Ice Hockey players, 6.2% of Lacrosse players, 2.9% of Soccer players, 2.2% of Softball players, 3% of Swimmers, 2% of Tennis players, 1.9% of Track & Field athletes, 1.6% of Volleyball players, 1.2% of Water Polo players nationally in high school are provided opportunities to play their sport in Division III.

High school-age girls in Maryland also compete in club sports, travel teams, or sports disconnected from schools. These include, but are not limited to Basketball, Soccer, Golf, Tennis, Track & Field, Soccer, Volleyball, Wrestling, Badminton, Table Tennis, Team Handball, Sailing, Field Hockey, Fencing, Swimming & Diving, Skateboarding, Water Polo, Archery, Field Hockey, Rifle, Triathlon, Ice Hockey, Sport Climbing, Artistic Swimming, Skiing, Snowboarding, Gymnastics, Rowing, Rugby, and all sorts of combat sports, like Judo, Karate, and Taekwondo, to name a few.

These metrics demonstrate that women have the athletic skills, and they have expressed enormous demand to compete in sports; demand that is unmet.

24. A review of the Stevenson website does not reveal that Stevenson undertook any athletic interest surveys or other research into interest and competition to support the addition of women's varsity sports. While surveys are never sufficient to deny women sports opportunities, they are often helpful in determining *which sports* the school should add.

25. Stevenson's EADA data further indicates that the university provides inadequate and unequal funding for the recruitment of female athletes. In 2021-2022, Stevenson spent \$103,861 on men's recruitment and only \$71,912 on women's recruitment; women were allocated only 40.91 percent of the recruiting budget even though they account for 39.7 percent of the athletic population and 62.04 percent of the full-time undergraduate population. Stevenson would need to add an *additional* **\$97,842** to women's teams – and women's coaches – to equal the amount Stevenson is currently providing to men.

26. If the OCR determines that Stevenson did not need to add additional athletic opportunities for women, and the ratio used is the student-athletes, instead of the student body, no more recruitment dollars would be required.

### IV. LEGAL ALLEGATIONS

27. Title IX provides that "[n]o person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." 20 U.S.C. §1681(a).

28. Title IX regulations prohibit athletic programs from discriminating on the basis of sex in interscholastic, intercollegiate, club or intramural athletics offered by the institution. 34 C.F.R. §106.41(a) (2000).

29. Title IX regulations require institutions that offer athletics programs to provide equal athletic opportunities to members of both sexes to participate in athletics. 34 C.F.R. \$106.41(c)(1).

30. Pursuant to the 1979 Title IX Policy Interpretation, compliance with Title IX's equal athletic participation requirement is measured by determining whether the educational institution meets one part of the following three-part test:

- 1. Prong 1: Whether intercollegiate level participation opportunities for male and female students are provided in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective enrollments; or
- 2. Prong 2: Where the members of one sex have been and are underrepresented among intercollegiate athletes, whether the institution can show a history and continuing practice of program expansion which is demonstrably responsive to the developing interests and abilities of the members of that sex; or
- 3. Prong 3: Where the members of one sex are underrepresented among intercollegiate athletes, and the institution cannot show a history and continuing practice of program expansion, as described above, whether it can be demonstrated that the interests and abilities of the members of that sex have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program.

United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office for Civil Rights, *Policy Interpretation; Title IX and Intercollegiate Athletics*, 44 Fed. Reg. 71413 (Dec. 11, 1979) [hereinafter *Policy Interpretation*].

31. In determining substantial proportionality under part one of the three-part test, OCR considers the number of opportunities that would have to be added to achieve proportionality and whether it would be sufficient to support another team. If there are a significant number of unaccommodated women, it is likely that a viable sport could be added and therefore the institution has not satisfied part one of the three-part test. United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, *Clarification of Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Guidance: the Three-Part Test* (Jan. 16, 1996) [hereinafter *1996 Clarification*].

32. In 1975, schools were given three years to be in compliance with the equal participation mandate under Title IX. Schools had only one year to end sex discrimination in all other areas of Title IX's non-discrimination mandate. Only athletics gave schools three years to add athletic opportunities and to stop discriminating against women – or until 1978. That deadline passed 45 years ago. 34 C.F.R. \$106.41(d).<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 34 C.F.R. §106.41(d) "*Adjustment period*. A recipient which operates or sponsors interscholastic, intercollegiate, club or intramural athletics at the elementary school level shall comply fully with this section as *Champion Women*, Sex Discrimination in Athletics in Violation of Title IX, 2023

It is worth noting how odd Prong 2 is as a legal test, in comparison to other nondiscrimination civil rights. For a school to be able to argue that it is still playing catch-up with non-discrimination – exists nowhere else in law. This is especially true 51 years after the passage of Title IX, and 48 years after the passage of the regulations OCR depends on, regulations that were passed by Congress. When a school uses Prong 2, it is admitting that it is not providing women with equal educational opportunities, but that their actions are acceptable, because the school is "improving." Title IX's Prong 2 allows schools to provide girls and women with less.

33. <u>Therefore, it is understandable that Prong 2 is a strict legal test</u>. In determining whether an institution has a history and continuing practice of expansion under Prong 2 of the three-part test, OCR reviews the entire history of the athletic program and evaluates whether the institution has expanded participation opportunities for the underrepresented sex in a manner that was demonstrably responsive to their developing interests and abilities, considering a number of factors, including:

- an institution's record of adding intercollegiate teams, or upgrading teams to intercollegiate status, for the underrepresented sex;
- an institution's record of increasing the numbers of participants in intercollegiate athletics who are members of the underrepresented sex;
- an institution's affirmative responses to requests by students or others for addition or elevation of sports; and
- whether the institution has effective ongoing procedures for collecting, maintaining and analyzing information on the interest and abilities of students of the underrepresented sex, including monitoring athletic participation, and assessing interest and ability on a periodic basis.

United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, *Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Clarification: The Three-Part Test- Part Three* (Apr. 20, 2010) [hereinafter 2010 Clarification]; 1996 Clarification.

34. In determining whether an institution has a continuing practice of program expansion under Prong 2, OCR will consider a number of factors, including:

- an institution's current implementation of a nondiscriminatory policy or procedure for requesting the addition of sports (including the elevation of club or intramural teams) and the effective communication of the policy or procedure to students;
- an institution's current implementation of a plan of program expansion that is responsive to developing interests and abilities; and
- an institution's efforts to monitor developing interests and abilities of the underrepresented sex, for example, by conducting periodic nondiscriminatory

expeditiously as possible but in no event later than one year from the effective date of this regulation. A recipient which operates or sponsors interscholastic, intercollegiate, club or intramural athletics at the secondary or post-secondary school level shall comply fully with this section as expeditiously as possible but in no event later than three years from the effective date of this regulation."

assessments of developing interests and abilities and taking timely actions in response to the results.

## 2010 Clarification, 1996 Clarification.

35. OCR will not find a history and continuing practice of program expansion where an institution increases the proportional participation opportunities for the underrepresented sex by reducing opportunities for the overrepresented sex alone or by reducing participation opportunities for the overrepresented sex to a proportionately greater degree than for the underrepresented sex. *2010 Clarification, 1996 Clarification.* 

36. Courts have found that schools must have both a history *and* continuing practice of expanding opportunities for women for Prong 2 compliance. *Mansourian v. Bd. Of Regents of Univ. of Cal.*, 594 F. 3d 1095, 1108. (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. Cal. 2010).

37. Prong 3 of the three-part test requires an examination of whether there is an unmet interest in a particular sport, a sufficient ability to sustain a team in the sport, and a reasonable expectation for competition for a team in the sport. *2010 Clarification*, *1996 Clarification*.

38. Whether there is unmet interest and ability will be determined by examining a broad range of indicators, including whether the institution uses nondiscriminatory methods of assessing interest and ability, the elimination of a viable team for the unrepresented sex, multiple indicators of interest and ability, and frequency of conducting assessments. *2010 Clarification*.

39. Sufficient interest can be established by student requests to add a sport or elevate a club sport, increases in club or intramural sport participation, responses to interviews and interest surveys, assessments of student athletic participation before entering the institution or in the secondary schools from which the university draws its students, and assessments of participation in intercollegiate sports in the institution's normal competitive regions. *Id.* 

40. Ability may be established by the athletic accomplishments and competitive experience of club sports and admitted students, the opinions of coaches, administrators, and athletes, and student participation in other sports. *Id*.

41. Expectation of competition may be established through athletic opportunities offered by other schools with which the school competes or opportunities at other schools in the school's geographic area, including those against which the institution does not compete. *Id*.

42. Under Prong 3 of the three-part test, OCR will also examine an institution's recruitment practices. If an institution recruits potential student athletes for its men's teams, OCR will examine whether the institution is providing women's teams with substantially equal opportunities to recruit potential student athletes. *Id*.

43. Title IX also requires equal opportunity in the recruitment of student athletes where equal athletic opportunities are not present for male and female students. Compliance will

be assessed by examining the recruitment practices of the athletic programs for both sexes and evaluating whether the financial and other resources made available for recruitment in male and female athletic programs are equivalently adequate to meet the needs of each program. *1979 Policy Interpretation*.

44. Title IX requires schools to provide women with equal treatment, including equipment and supplies; game and practice times; travel and per diem allowances; coaching and academic tutoring; assignment and compensation of coaches and tutors; locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities; medical and training facilities and services; housing and dining facilities and services; and publicity. 34 C.F.R. §106.41(a) (2000), *Policy Interpretation*.

45. Lack of money is not a legal defense to sex discrimination. *See, e.g., Roberts Colorado State Univ.*, 814 F. Supp. 1507, 1518 (D. Colo. 1993) ("[A] financial crisis cannot justify gender discrimination."); *Favia v Indiana University of Pennsylvania*, 812 F. Supp. 578, 585 (W.D. Pa. 1993) (finding that financial concerns alone cannot justify gender discrimination); *Cook v. Colgate University*, 802 F. Supp. 737, 750 (1992) ("[I]f schools could use financial concerns as a sole reason for disparity of treatment, Title IX would become meaningless."); *Haffer v. Temple*, 678 F. Supp. 517, 520 (1987) (finding that financial concerns alone cannot justify gender discrimination).

46. Monies and in-kind benefits from third-party sources, such as donors, sponsorships, television rights, ticket sales, student-fees, are not a defense to a sex discrimination charge, whether those resources were used to build facilities, provide equipment and uniforms, or any other benefit of sports participation. None of those sources of money creates a legal defense to sex discrimination. Schools must assure that their students are not receiving second class educational opportunities because they are female. See 20 U.S.C. § 1687 (2005); See Office for Civil Rights, *Department of Education, Further Clarification of Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Guidance Regarding Title IX Compliance* (June 11, 2003), *Cohen v. Brown Univ.*, 809 F. Supp. 978, 996 (D.R.I. 1992) (concluding that "all monies spent by Brown's Athletic Department, whether originating from university coffers or from the Sports Foundation [booster club] must be evaluated as a whole under § 106.41(c)")

47. It is *Champion Women's* experience that most athletes and former athletes are acutely aware of all the ways they are treated as second-class within their athletics department, because they are women. As NIL monies become more available, equal promotion and publicity will be important for female athletes. *Champion Women* asked current collegiate athletes what equality would look like under this list. Here's what the athletes came up with:

- i. Men's and Women's sports would be equally featured, with equal prominence, on school and Athletic Department websites and social media.
- ii. Schools would invest equally in cameras and production equipment for Women's and Men's sports.
- iii. Schools would optimize Google searches for their Men's and Women's teams to receive equal search results.

- iv. Women's and Men's sports would employ an equal caliber of talent in their sports information and marketing departments, and they would be paid and promoted equally.
- v. Women's and Men's sports jerseys, apparel and memorabilia would be equally and easily accessible.
- vi. The needs of Women's teams would not revolve around Men's football and men's basketball teams.
- vii. The Women's and Men's teams would have equal access to dining halls, nutrition, etc. at times equally convenient to both teams.
- viii. Men's and Women's teams would have equal access to optimal practice times when they share facilities.
- ix. Men's and Women's sports marketing efforts would focus on performance; Broadcasters and schools would not focus on a woman-athlete's appearance or sexuality.
- x. Women's and Men's medical care and athletic training access would be equal; Neither male or female athletes would have priority accessing these resources.
- xi. Schools would hire competition officials of the same quality, with equal compensation, for the Women's and Men's teams.
- xii. Men's and Women's sports performance staff would be equal, and would be paid and promoted comparably.
- xiii. Schools would intentionally use language that equally prioritizes Men's and Women's sports.
  - 1. Teams would be referred as "Women's Basketball" and "Men's Basketball"
  - 2. "Basketball" would not be used to refer to Men's Basketball.
  - Schools would have Social Media handles that referred to men's and women's teams; "Oregon Soccer" would be changed to "Oregon Men's Soccer"

48. Stevenson's own data, as outlined in the Factual Allegations above, demonstrate that it is not providing equal opportunities for its female students to participate in sports under Title IX's three-part participation test, and equal treatment and benefits, also required by Title IX.

#### V. RELIEF REQUESTED

47. *Champion Women* expects OCR investigators will find additional violations of Title IX, the law guaranteeing women equal educational opportunities, including athletics. *Champion Women* requests that OCR:

- a. <u>Investigate</u> Stevenson University to determine whether it is discriminating against its women students by failing to provide their female students with equal athletic participation opportunities, and receiving equal treatment and benefits of varsity sport participation.
- b. Take all necessary steps to <u>remedy</u> any sex discrimination and unlawful conduct that you identify in your investigation, as required by Title IX and its implementing regulations. Secure assurances of compliance with Title IX from Stevenson, that include full remedies for the violations found.
- c. Among other steps to achieve compliance with Title IX, require Stevenson to add more athletic opportunities for women, accord to additional teams and athletes the full range of benefits accorded to men's varsity teams and athletes, increase recruiting budgets and opportunities, and adopt and implement a plan to achieve compliance with Title IX.
- d. <u>Monitor</u> any resulting agreement with Stevenson University to ensure that the school achieves compliance with Title IX.



Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hogshead, J.D., OLY September 24, 2023