Promoting gender equality
Closing the gender gap in STEM fields, preventing sexual misconduct, and supporting LGBT students

Closing the Gender Gap in the STEM Fields:
- Given that Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) skills in the workforce promote innovation and economic growth, it is particularly important that initiatives are taken to close the gender gap in the STEM fields [1]. According to the National Science Foundation, only 19.8% of Bachelor's degrees and only 22.8% of Doctoral degrees were awarded to women in STEM subjects in 2014 [2].
- We thank all members of Congress working to address the gender gap in the STEM fields by passing the INSPIRE Women Act (H.R. 321) and the Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act (H.R. 255).

MIT GSC supports policies that further facilitate the career advancement of women by:
- Providing affordable childcare and strengthening maternity leave policies, along with paid parental leave provisions.
- Enabling access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare, including reproductive healthcare (short- and long-term contraceptives, cancer screenings, STI/STD testing) and the range of options surrounding pregnancy, childbirth, and neonatal care.

Preventing Sexual Harassment and Assault:
- The concerning trends regarding sexual misconduct on campus must be addressed in order to create a safe campus environment for all students and promote equal access to education, both of which are essential for maximizing the potential of young people.
- We thank all parties involved in the passage of the Survivor's Bill of Rights Act (H.R.5578), which facilitates medical forensic examination for victims of sexual assault, eases the collection, processing, and preservation of evidence and tasks the Department of Justice with developing and disseminating best practices for handling sexual assault cases.

MIT GSC supports policies that:
- Protect whistleblowers of sexual misconduct (see MIT's Good Samaritan Amnesty Policy [3])
- Increase transparency in the reporting of principal investigators who have engaged in sexual misconduct at institutions of higher education

Supporting LGBT Students:
- We offer our strong support of Equality for All Resolution of 2017 (H.R. 136), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- This is an important step in fostering a welcoming community for all graduate students and ensuring they can reach their potential throughout their careers.

References:

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