

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 27

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 74

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 27—Relative to women in sports.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 10, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 27, Bonilla. Women in sports.

This measure would commemorate the 40th anniversary of Title IX on June 23, 2012, commend the movement toward increased equality and fair treatment of female athletes, and praise the goal of greater opportunities in sports for girls and young women in California.

WHEREAS, When the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) was formed in 1914, girls' physical education did not include interscholastic sports teams; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, the CIF Federated Council adopted a set of bylaws for girls' interscholastic sports that stated that schools and school districts may organize girls' sports teams; and

WHEREAS, By the 1967–68 school year, almost half of California's secondary schools conducted a CIF girls' interscholastic athletic program of some degree; and

WHEREAS, In 1972, the United States Congress enacted Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and

WHEREAS, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (hereafter Title IX) states, in part, as follows: "No 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"; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the enactment of Title IX, many schools refused to admit girls and women to, or imposed strict limits on their participation in, a wide range of sports; and

WHEREAS, Since the enactment of Title IX, the participation and interest of girls and women in sports has soared. Only 300,000 girls participated in California high school sports and fewer than 32,000 women participated in college sports prior to Title IX; today the number is nearly three million; and

WHEREAS, Since the enactment of Title IX, participation of girls and women in sports has increased by 904 percent in high schools and 456 percent in colleges; and

WHEREAS, Title IX governs the overall equity of opportunity in athletics, including areas such as equipment and supplies, travel, support services, and scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Scholarship opportunities are an important way that educational institutions meet the needs and interests of student athletes; and

WHEREAS, In 1995–96, across all National Collegiate Athletic Association divisions, male athletes received 63 percent of the scholarship funding and female athletes received 37 percent of scholarship dollars, or \$142,622,803 less than their male counterparts; and

WHEREAS, Today, male athletes receive 55 percent of the scholarship funding and female athletes receive 45 percent of scholarship dollars; and

WHEREAS, The amount of recruitment dollars spent on women athletes can be viewed as a measure of institutional commitment to women's sports programs; and

WHEREAS, In 1995–96, women's teams received 26.6 percent of the total available funding while men's teams received 72.6 percent of that amount; and

WHEREAS, Today, women's teams receive 38 percent of the total available funding while men's teams receive 62 percent of that amount; and

WHEREAS, Participation in girls' and women's sports has led to tremendous learning opportunities in leadership skills and team building; and

WHEREAS, Girls' and women's sports have contributed enormously to developing self-confidence and self-esteem in women; and

WHEREAS, Girls and young women who are involved in sports have been found to be less likely to smoke, use drugs, or have babies as teenagers; and

WHEREAS, Girls' and women's sports and other fitness programs for women have led millions of women into positive lifelong habits of physical activity, improved fitness, and consequently greatly improved health in our state; and

WHEREAS, Title IX has continued to increase opportunities for girls and women in sports but has not achieved the goal of full equality in participation in scholarships, equipment, and other funding; and

WHEREAS, In addition to girls' and women's sports, numerous health clubs, specialized programs in women's fitness, and outdoor activities and programs that promote self-sufficiency and self-confidence in women through outdoor adventures are dedicated to promoting lifelong participation of women in sports and fitness; and

WHEREAS, These same organizations have sought to create a public awareness that encourages greater female participation and greater support of gender equality and empowerment through sports and outdoor programs; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That high school and college coaches of women's athletics are to be commended for progress in attaining the goals of Title IX and fulfilling the hopes and dreams of girls and women in sports; and be it further

Resolved, That the CIF and California high schools and colleges are to be commended for the progress made already and encouraged in further efforts by all to meet the challenge of equality in sports and the greatest

fulfillment of the hopes and dreams of girls and women in our schools; and be it further

Resolved, That programs and projects that emphasize girls' and women's confidence building through fitness and physical challenges in sports and outdoor adventure, such as the Women's Sports Foundation, be commended for their positive impact in carrying forward the fitness message for girls and women; and be it further

Resolved, That parents, families, businesses, women athletes who serve as positive role models, and all others who have contributed to girls' and women's leadership and team player skills through sports and fitness activities are to be commended; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California, on June 23, 2012, commemorates the 40th anniversary of Title IX, commends the movement toward increased equality and fair treatment of female athletes, and praises the goals of greater opportunities in sports for girls and young women in California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.