

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 27

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonilla

February 14, 2012

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 27, as introduced, 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.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, When the California Interscholastic Federation
2 (CIF) was formed in 1914, girls’ physical education did not include
3 interscholastic sports teams; and
4 WHEREAS, In 1964, the CIF Federated Council adopted a set
5 of bylaws for girls’ interscholastic sports that stated that schools
6 and school districts may organize girls’ sports teams; and
7 WHEREAS, By the 1967–68 school year, almost half of
8 California’s secondary schools conducted a CIF girls’
9 interscholastic athletic program of some degree; and
10 WHEREAS, In 1972, the United States Congress enacted Title
11 IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and
12 WHEREAS, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
13 (hereafter Title IX) states, in part, as follows: “No person in the
14 United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from
15 participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to

1 discrimination under any education program or activity receiving
2 Federal financial assistance”; and

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

6 WHEREAS, Since the enactment of Title IX, the participation
7 and interest of girls and women in sports has soared. Only 300,000
8 girls participated in California high school sports prior to Title IX;
9 today the number is in excess of 2.37 million; and

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Women’s teams received 26.6 percent of the total
25 available funding while men’s teams received 72.6 percent of that
26 amount; and

27 WHEREAS, Women now constitute 37 percent of college
28 athletes and were 39 percent of the 1996 United States Olympic
29 Team members; and

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

33 WHEREAS, Girls’ and women’s sports have contributed
34 enormously to developing self-confidence and self-esteem in
35 women; and

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

39 WHEREAS, Girls’ and women’s sports and other fitness
40 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

1 treatment of female athletes, and praises the goals of greater
2 opportunities in sports for girls and young women in California;
3 and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
5 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
6 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each
7 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
8 United States.

O