

Surf Club of the Claremont Colleges

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20 April 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
California State Assembly
Committee on Appropriations
California State Capitol
10th and L Streets, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Bill 467 - Oppose Unless Amended

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez,

We, the surfers of the Claremont Colleges, oppose Assembly Bill 467 unless it's amended.

As the third consecutive woman to serve as President of Surf Club, I am passionate about improving access for women at every level of competitive surfing. While I am excited about the progress being made towards pay equity, I am concerned that AB 467 will encourage event businesses and athletic organizations to exclude female categories from athletic competitions in an effort to thwart equal pay requirements and reduce costs. This amounts to gender-based discrimination, and we urge the committee to amend the bill and correct these unintended consequences.

We agree with the concerns raised by the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing. Please amend AB 467 to require that athletic competitions to be consistent with the Unruh Civil Rights Act.

We request that you amend AB 467 to include the following:

- (A) "Competition" means competition or tournament on lands owned by the state and managed by the department.

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(B) “Prize compensation” includes purse money, other awards, honors, gifts, rewards, goods, or other payment.

(C) “Event” means a segment of a competition such as a heat, race, or match, or game.

(2) The department/commission, shall require compliance with California non-discriminatory practices for individuals or groups protected by the California Unruh Civil Rights Act as a condition of a permit/lease, for a competition that awards prize compensation to competitors. Prize compensation shall be identical for all categories at each participant level. Event playing time shall be identical for each category, for a competition that awards prize compensation to competitors. The department/commission shall not approve a permit/lease for an event that does not comply with this condition.

Unfair business practices prevent women professional athletes from utilizing public resources. Please act to ensure that AB 467 provides the oversight necessary to stop decades of gender-based discrimination.

As IAP Films director Soul wrote, “Access is everything. Without equal access, equal play and equal pay is out of reach.”

Thank you for your consideration,

Molly Lockwood
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Philosophy, Politics, and Economics B.A. Candidate
President, Surf Club of the Claremont Colleges
Founder, Sea Maven Magazine