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Thursday, April 18, 2019

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

## **AB 467 - Oppose Unless Amended - Equal Play & Equal Pay**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez,

I oppose Assembly Bill 467 unless amended.

I'm deeply concerned that AB 467 will encourage and incentivize event businesses and athletic organizations to exclude female categories from athletic competitions in an effort to thwart equal pay requirements. Please amend the bill and correct these unintended consequences.

I 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 on California state lands.

Please amend AB 467 to include the following:

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

Please act to ensure that AB 467 provides the oversight necessary to stop decades of gender-based discrimination. It's critical that event playing-time be identical for all categories. Unfair business practices prevent women professional athletes from utilizing public resources.

I understand Assemblymembers Tasha Boerner Horvath's concern about possibly losing a women's only surf competition in District 76 if this bill is amended. However the whole reason these women only events were created was out of an unequal playing field. It was an attempt to provide women with a place to compete and show their talents. The uneven playing field has resulted in women's only competitions. Please amend this bill to ensure that women are allowed to compete in all competitions.

I'm a transgender director who works in surf media. I produced and directed the film 'It Ain't Pretty', that chronicles the fight for the inclusion of women in the Mavericks big wave surf competition held near Half Moon Bay, CA.

California legislators have an opportunity to support the inclusion of athletes who identify beyond the scope of two gendered categories. Being a transgender person born female I understand the struggle to find my place in the world. I want to see a broader landscape for future athletes. Access is everything. Without equal access, equal play and equal pay is out of reach.

Sincerely,  
Soul