



## COMMITTEE FOR EQUITY IN WOMEN'S SURFING

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, April 22, 2019

### Assembly Bill 467 — Oppose Unless Amended — Equal Play For Equal Pay

The Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing (CEWS) is asking legislators to close the loopholes in AB 467 and stop businesses, event promoters, and athletic organizations from marginalizing women athletes by excluding them from athletic competitions.

Assembly Bill 467 does **not** protect athletes from gender-based discrimination.

### The Following Eleven Organizations and Businesses Oppose AB 467 Unless Amended:

- The Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing
- San Mateo County Harbor District
- Homestretch Foundation
- Athlete Ally
- The Wahine Project
- Surf Club of the Claremont Colleges
- Coastside Progressive Democrats
- On The Water Front
- IAP Films
- Good Film Works
- Dr. Mary Larenas

### We Support the Following Amendment to AB 467:

(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.

**Why Doesn't AB 467 Prohibit Gender-Based Discrimination?** Because the bills author supports gender-based discrimination in athletic competitions.

On Feb 17, 2019, Cori Schumacher, a field representative working for Assemblywoman Tasha Boerner Horvath, emailed CEWS and said:

*Concerns exist regarding "equal access" and how that would impair female-only events/spaces/leagues/business events...it is of major concern to a number of my colleagues in the sports gender equity realm, and the Assemblymembers.*

*Examples:*

- All Girls Skate Jam
- SuperGirl Pro at Oceanside

**Who Authored AB 467?** On April 4, 2019, Cori Schumacher indicated that she authored AB 467 in The Coast News:

*Carlsbad Councilwoman Cori Schumacher disclosed she is working for State Assemblywoman Tasha Boerner Horvath (D-Encinitas) as a field representative in Vista. Schumacher said other than the Assembly Bill 467, the Gender Equity in Sport bill, also known as "Equal Pay for Equal Play" bill, she does not write legislation for or with Horvath... California Strategies is the lobbying firm for the City of Carlsbad.*

**Here's the Problem, Discrimination Results in Actual Damages:** Gender-based discrimination results in less playing time for women athletes, loss of income, smaller marketing budgets, loss of sponsorship opportunities, substandard facilities, sports arenas and stadiums for women's leagues are located further from densely populated areas, lack of coaching or no coaching, less training or no training, limited safety training or no safety training, second-rate equipment, inadequate healthcare, injuries and prolonged injury recovery.

Gender-based discrimination results in the systematic exclusion of women from athletic competitions. Female athletes have fewer competitive opportunities than male athletes and working conditions for women are subpar. Discrimination is the biggest challenge facing women professional athletes in California and globally.

**Recent News Coverage About AB 467:**

- The Atlantic magazine: <https://bit.ly/2v9AbU7>
- Orange County Register: <https://bit.ly/2I2xR9S>
- CALmatters: <https://bit.ly/2TYWQwn>
- HuffPost: <https://bit.ly/2VJJntT>

## Women Want To Compete in California!

On March 22-24, 2019, women were excluded from the Jack's Surfboards Pro competition, a World Surf League 1,500 Qualifying Series event with **prize money and points**, held in Huntington Beach, CA.

On March 20, 2019, CEWS sent an email to the mayor of Huntington Beach and asked the city council to prohibit gender-based discrimination. We requested that the city change their event permits to require that ALL surfing competitions include a women's division and a men's division in compliance with the Unruh Civil Rights Act. Huntington Beach City Manager Fred Wilson said in a statement to the Orange County Register that there have been no requests from promoters to host a women's qualifying series event in the city. Mr. Wilson also said, "We are not in the practice of dictating amount of prize money/pay distributed by outside promoters for these events." To-date, CEWS has not received a response from the Mayor or the City Manager.

## Equal Pay is Only Part Of The Problem

It's impossible to achieve equal pay in athletic competitions that exclude women OR in competitions that provide unequal playing time, unequal awards, unequal honors and unequal logistical support.

It's difficult and sometimes impossible for women professional athletes to earn a living without opportunities to compete to earn equal money. The lack of opportunity, inclusion and equal pay is a complex system of problems rooted in discrimination.

The best strategy for sorting out this mess of civil rights violations is to address them simultaneously. All state agency permits and leases must prohibit discrimination. Amend AB 467 to require businesses and organizations that manage and promote athletic competitions on California state lands comply with the Unruh Civil Rights Act.

The California civil rights law was enacted in 1959 and it applies to all businesses in California:

*51.(b) All persons within the jurisdiction of this state are free and equal, and no matter what their sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, citizenship, primary language, or immigration status are entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever.*

Unfair business practices prevent women professional athletes from utilizing public resources on state land. Amend AB 467 and end decades of gender-based discrimination.

## Women Are Not Invited To Compete In The Jack's Pro in Huntington Beach





sabrina brennan @

Sent - sa...a@dfm.com

March 20, 2019 at 1:24 PM



[Details](#)

Jack's Pro: March 22-24 2019 Huntington Beach Pier

To: erik.peterson@surfcity-hb.org, Cc: Lyn.Semeta@surfcity-hb.org & 10 more

Hello Mayor Peterson,

I'm co-founder of the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing. This morning, we learned that the Jack's Pro surfing competition held near the Huntington Beach Pier does not include women. After checking with City staff it's my understanding that your agency is responsible for permitting the event.

We would greatly appreciate it if the City Council would consider adding language to your permits that prohibits gender-based discrimination. We support the inclusion of gendered categories (a women's division and men's division) at all surfing competitions. We also support requiring equal pay/prize parity in all professional surfing competitions.

Here's a couple stories about our work:

New York Times Magazine: <https://nyti.ms/2VvJ5Gi>

New York Times Newspaper: <https://nyti.ms/2UilykB>

Please let me know if we can provide additional information. Thank you for considering our request.

Sabrina Brennan  
Co-Founder, Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing  
Cell 415-816-6111

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