

Coastside Progressive Democrats

720 Warren St
Redwood City, CA 94063

Friday, April 19, 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,

The Coastside Progressive Democrats (CPD) oppose Assembly Bill 467 unless it is amended to require that athletic competitions be consistent with the Unruh Civil Rights Act.

CPD is a local, grassroots club of progressive activists, whose board consists mostly of marine scientists and coastal advocates. As residents of San Mateo County, we strive for progressive ideals and to protect our unique coastal environment. A key priority of CPD is to increase public access to the coast, particularly equitable access.

CPD is 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. We urge the committee to amend the bill and correct these unintended consequences. Please don't incentivize gender-based discrimination.

CPD agrees with the concerns raised by the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing, Athlete Ally, the Homestretch Foundation, and the San Mateo County Harbor District. Please amend AB 467 to require that athletic competitions be consistent with the Unruh Civil Rights Act.

Recent news coverage about AB 467:

- The Atlantic magazine: <https://bit.ly/2v9AbU7>
- Orange County Register: <https://bit.ly/2l2xR9S>
- CALmatters: <https://bit.ly/2TYWQwn>
- HuffPost: <https://bit.ly/2VJJntT>

We recommend amending 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.

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.

Thank you for your consideration.



James Lee

Vice President

Coastside Progressive Democrats