

Date of Hearing: February 20, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, TOURISM, AND
INTERNET MEDIA

Kansen Chu, Chair

HR 13 (Chu) – As Introduced February 14, 2019

SUBJECT: California Girls and Women in Sports Day.

SUMMARY: Would provide that the first Wednesday in February be declared California Girls and Women in Sports Day to acknowledge the contributions of, and to recognize, girls and women in sports in California and that all teachers, school administrators, and community policymakers and leaders collaboratively review current policies and practices to ensure equity in sports programs and activities in California.

Specifically, **this resolution makes the following findings and declarations:**

- 1) In 1972, Title IX was added to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as part of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681, et seq.), codifying nondiscrimination in sports programs.
- 2) National Girls and Women in Sports Day began in 1987 as a day to remember Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman for her athletic achievements and her commitment to ensure equity for women's sports.
- 3) National Girls and Women in Sports Day exists to acknowledge past, and recognize current, sports achievements, the positive influence of sports participation, and the continuing struggle for equity and access for women in sports.
- 4) The history of girls and women in sports is rich and long, yet there has been little national or state recognition of the significance of girl's and women's athletic achievements.
- 5) The bonds built between girls and women through athletics helps to break down the social barriers of racism and prejudice, and communication and cooperation skills learned through sports play a key role in the athlete's contributions at home, at work, and in society.
- 6) A need for increased opportunities exists for girls to participate in and pursue physical activity at the community and scholastic levels to increase their health and well-being on a daily basis and to develop lifelong fitness habits at an early age.
- 7) Girl's and women's athletics, at all levels, is one of the most effective avenues through which girls and women in the state may develop self-discipline, initiative, confidence, and leadership skills regardless of background.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. The resolution is keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS: According to the author, "In recognition of the importance of sports participation, current federal law includes sports in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which provides that, 'no person in the United States shall, on

the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program of activity receiving Federal financial assistance.’

In addition to Title IX, the United States Congress proclaimed the first national Girls and Women in Sports Day on February 4, 1987 in honor of Flo Hyman, a volleyball legend whose efforts to promote equality in sports were cut short by her untimely and tragic death. As a result of these noteworthy efforts, women have made considerable advances in professional, collegiate, club, intramural, masters, high school, junior high school, youth, and recreational sports, with many distinguishing themselves as representatives of California and the nation in international competition and the Olympics.”

CAHPERD adds in their support of this measure, “CAHPERD is proud to recognize and sponsor the 33rd National Girls and Women in Sports Day on February 6, 2019. Further, the Association is in full support of equal opportunities that sport can provide for Girls and Women in Sports (GWS). Although there have been tremendous strides for females in sports since the landmark passage of Title IX in 1972, CAHPERD strongly believes there is more work to be completed, and there is more equality that can be accomplished. We feel this endeavor must be achieved through education and advocacy.

The wealth of positive benefits for girls’ and women’s participation in sports is multi-faceted and includes the areas of psychological, physiological, emotional, and sociological (The Women’s Sports Foundation, 2018). Since Title IX, research has consistently found females’ participation in sport has been associated with lower body mass index (BMI) and lower rates of obesity (Kaestner and Xu, 2010). Further, these findings correlate to higher rates of self-worth reported by females who participate in sports in their adolescent years (Collins, Cromartie, Butler and Bae, 2018). Moreover, research has consistently supported that females’ participation in sports leads to more effective coping skills to deal with the pressures of everyday life demands and leads to greater psychosocial development.”

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD)

Opposition

There is no opposition on file.

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