

1 [Support of AB 2404.]

2 **Resolution supporting AB 2404 and urging the California legislature to pass AB 2404**
3 **prohibiting local governments from discriminating against any person on the basis of**
4 **gender within community youth athletics programs.**

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6 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 2404 (AB 2404) introduced by Assemblyman Darrell
7 Steinberg will promote gender equality in the operation of youth athletics programs; and,

8 WHEREAS, The implementation of the existing federal law, Title IX, has broadened
9 athletics opportunities available to girls and young women in educational institutions and led
10 to a dramatic increase in the number of girls and young women participating in these activities
11 on both the high school and college levels, yet still does not afford the same opportunities
12 outside of school; and,

13 WHEREAS, AB 2404 will prohibit the exclusion of and discrimination against young
14 women in the provision and administration of community athletic facilities, resources, and the
15 athletic programs themselves by local government agencies including cities, counties, and
16 special districts; and,

17 WHEREAS, AB 2404 will supply girls and young women with opportunities for
18 participation in community youth athletics programs equal to those afforded boys and young
19 men; and,

20 WHEREAS, A Walter J. Haas, Jr. Fund survey conducted in 1995 found that less than
21 25 percent of Oakland's and San Francisco's after school sports participants are girls and
22 young women from low-income families, families which compose a large portion of California's
23 urban communities; and,

24 WHEREAS, AB 2404 is designed to increase the involvement of girls and young
25 women, particularly those who live in these urban communities, in athletic activities,
involvement that offers incalculable benefits including greater academic achievement, better
social skills, superior physical and psychological health, and the possibility of entering college
on an athletic scholarship; and,

1 WHEREAS, Research shows that girls who participate in athletic programs graduate
2 high school at consistently higher rates than those who do not and are more likely to attend
3 college; and,

4 WHEREAS, Participation in athletics at a young age enables girls and young women to
5 develop healthy lifestyles complete with exercise and good nutrition; and

6 WHEREAS, These publicly funded athletic programs are critical to the development of
7 leadership skills and confidence among girls from such low-income families who cannot afford
8 access to private sports leagues; and,

9 WHEREAS, Involvement in sports causes girls to learn indispensable leadership skills,
10 the value of which is seen in the fact that more than 80 percent of executive businesswomen
11 actively participated in athletic programs growing up, with the vast majority of these saying
12 that lessons learned early on in sports contributed to their successes later in life; and,

13 WHEREAS, The State Commission on the Status of Women and the American Civil
14 Liberties Union both champion the implementation of AB 2404; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED That the City and County of San Francisco supports AB 2404 and urges
16 the California legislature to pass AB 2404 prohibiting local governments from discriminating
17 against any person on the basis of gender within community youth athletics programs.
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