

1 [Support for Ending the California American Legion Ban on Girls Participation in the  
2 National Program]

3 **Motion supporting the efforts to end the California American Legion’s ban on**  
4 **girls’ participation in the national program and urging the Mayor, Board of**  
5 **Supervisors, and San Francisco’s members of the State Legislature to support.**

6 WHEREAS, The California American Legion’s Boys and Girls State (“Boys and  
7 Girls State”) program, which is an immersive mock government program designed to  
8 promote civic engagement in California and is part of a nationwide network of programs,  
9 currently prohibits female participants who should be eligible to represent the state at  
10 the national American Legion Boys Nation (“Boys Nation”); and

11 WHEREAS, In 2023, Boys and Girls State delegates elected a girl to represent  
12 California as our Lieutenant Governor to Boys Nation, yet she was not permitted to  
13 attend on the basis of her gender; and

14 WHEREAS, After the election results showed a delegate would not be able to  
15 attend on the basis of her gender, a boy was instead selected to attend instead; and

16 WHEREAS, The adult leadership of Boys and Girls State have repeatedly  
17 refused to adopt equal rules for all participants, no matter their gender; and

18 WHEREAS, This blatant gender discrimination is unacceptable and actively  
19 stops girls across California from gaining equal access to leadership positions; and

20 WHEREAS, Advocates for changing this discriminatory policy have called for  
21 state leaders, particularly members of the California Assembly and California Senate  
22 Education Committees, to work to address this policy; and

1           WHEREAS, These advocates have authored two letters on the issue, the first to  
2 state leaders and the second to the leadership of Boys and Girls State; and therefore be  
3 it

4           MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission supports the efforts to end  
5 gender discrimination at the California American Legion’s Boys and Girls State program;  
6 and be it

7           MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission co-signs the letter to the  
8 leadership of the American Legion leadership to urge them to end gender discrimination  
9 at the California American Legion’s Boys and Girls State program (attached); and be it

10           MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission co-signs the letter to  
11 elected California leaders to urge them to take action to end gender discrimination at  
12 the California American Legion’s Boys and Girls State program (attached); and be it

13           MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board  
14 of Supervisors to take action in support of efforts to end gender discrimination at the  
15 California American Legion’s Boys and Girls State program; and be it

16           MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges San Francisco’s state  
17 legislative representatives, including Senator Scott Wiener, Assemblymember Matt  
18 Haney, and Assemblymember Phil Ting, to take action in support of efforts to end  
19 gender discrimination at the California American Legion’s Boys and Girls State program.

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1 **[Support for Ending the California American Legion Ban on Girls Participation in**  
2 **the National Program]**

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4 **Supplemental Information:**

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6 See attached document [Letter of Support]

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Youth Commission  
City Hall ~ Room 345  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place



(415) 554-6446  
(415) 554-6140 FAX

San Francisco Youth Commission  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
Room 345  
San Francisco, CA 94102

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear American Legion,

We urge you to give the girls in the California American Legion's Boys and Girls State program the equal opportunity their male counterparts have to advance to the national program.

Girls, irrespective of ability, do not have the opportunity that the male attendees have to attend the national program, Boys Nation, solely because of gender. Last year, one thousand students—in near unanimous agreement—advocated for equal opportunity, a proposal shot down and replaced by the American Legion with the "Outstanding Citizen Award" for girls. One thousand students advocating for change was not enough last year, as the girls still do not have the opportunity that boys have to attend the national program. Girls should not have to wait another year for the equal opportunity that the American Legion can provide but currently does not.

We strongly urge you to champion opportunities for women in politics, starting with your program giving women equal opportunity to attend the national program starting with the upcoming 2024 cohort.

Youth Commission  
City Hall ~ Room 345  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place



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Sincerely,

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Ewan Barker Plummer, Chair

Adopted 04/15/2024

2023 – 2024 San Francisco Youth Commission

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San Francisco, CA 94102

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Senator Scott Wiener  
Capitol Office  
1021 O Street, Suite 8620  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**Re: Support for Ending the California American Legion Ban on Girls Participation in the National Program**

Dear Senator Wiener,

We urge you to take action against gender discrimination in the California American Legion's Boys and Girls State program, which bans girls from the opportunity that their male counterparts have to advance to the national program.

SB 363 amended the education code to exempt from sex discrimination provisions gender-segregated activities of the American Legion or American Legion Auxillary's California state conferences if they comply with certain conditions, including providing similar programming. Following the American Legion (Boys State) and the American Legion Auxiliary's (Girls State) inability to agree as to how to make their programs similar, the American Legion made the program, formerly known as Boys State, coeducational, bringing together roughly one thousand male and female students for what is now Boys and Girls State. However, gender inequality continues despite that change and exists in the form of blatant discrimination. Girls, irrespective of ability, do

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not have the opportunity that the male attendees have to attend the national program, Boys Nation, solely because of gender. Last year, one thousand students—in near unanimous agreement—advocated for equal opportunity, a proposal shot down and replaced by the staffers with the “Outstanding Citizen Award” for girls, demonstrating that they would do anything but end their discriminatory practice. One thousand students advocating for change was not enough last year, as the girls still do not have the opportunity that boys have to attend the national program. Only with your help can we change this grave injustice.

We strongly urge you to continue combating gender discrimination by taking action against the American Legion again, denying hundreds of girls an equal opportunity.

Sincerely,

---

Ewan Barker Plummer, Chair

Adopted 04/15/2024

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April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Assemblymember Phil Ting  
Capitol Office  
1021 O Street, Suite 5220  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**Re: Support for Ending the California American Legion Ban on Girls Participation in the National Program**

Dear Assemblymember Ting,

We urge you to take action against gender discrimination in the California American Legion's Boys and Girls State program, which bans girls from the opportunity that their male counterparts have to advance to the national program.

SB 363 amended the education code to exempt from sex discrimination provisions gender-segregated activities of the American Legion or American Legion Auxillary's California state conferences if they comply with certain conditions, including providing similar programming. Following the American Legion (Boys State) and the American Legion Auxiliary's (Girls State) inability to agree as to how to make their programs similar, the American Legion made the program, formerly known as Boys State, coeducational, bringing together roughly one thousand male and female students for what is now Boys and Girls State. However, gender inequality continues despite that change and exists in the form of blatant discrimination. Girls, irrespective of ability, do



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April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Assemblymember Matt Haney  
Capitol Office  
1021 O Street, Suite 5740  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**Re: Support for Ending the California American Legion Ban on Girls Participation in the National Program**

Dear Assemblymember Haney,

We urge you to take action against gender discrimination in the California American Legion's Boys and Girls State program, which bans girls from the opportunity that their male counterparts have to advance to the national program.

SB 363 amended the education code to exempt from sex discrimination provisions gender-segregated activities of the American Legion or American Legion Auxillary's California state conferences if they comply with certain conditions, including providing similar programming. Following the American Legion (Boys State) and the American Legion Auxiliary's (Girls State) inability to agree as to how to make their programs similar, the American Legion made the program, formerly known as Boys State, coeducational, bringing together roughly one thousand male and female students for what is now Boys and Girls State. However, gender inequality continues despite that change and exists in the form of blatant discrimination. Girls, irrespective of ability, do

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