



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

M I N N E S O T A

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

March 21, 1996

Mr. Ted Brinkman
7012 Kerry Road
Edina, MN 55439

Dear Mr. Brinkman:

Carol Frisch, the Action Chair of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, asked me to provide some background information on our position in opposition of adopting danceline as a Minnesota High School League sanctioned sport. Attached please find the letter which we signed along with 10 other interested organizations.

Carol mentioned you are interested in some statistics on girls athletics, perhaps as it relates to Edina. I suggest you call the Edina Athletic Director, Steve Dove, who can give you a copy of the Minnesota Department of Education's evaluation of Edina's compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 which governs gender equity in sports.

The League opposed the addition of dance team as an interscholastic sport because of our concern for and commitment to equity. As the letter states, neither the NCAA, the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission nor the University of Minnesota recognizes danceline as a sport.

I hope this clarifies the League's position. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Meg Mannix
Action Coordinator/

MINNESOTA COALITION FOR GIRLS ATHLETICS

1711 Laurel Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

(612) 644-2739

March 12, 1996

Dear Members of the Minnesota State High School League Representative Assembly:

This letter is from a coalition of organizations that wrote to you and to the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Board of Directors in the past to express the position that the MSHSL should not adopt danceline as a MSHSL sanctioned sport. We are writing to again urge that the MSHSL not approve the proposal to add Girls Dance Team as an Interscholastic Sport Activity.

Girls danceline/team is an interscholastic support activity. We continue to believe that girls in Minnesota should be provided with a chance to participate in authentic sports opportunities.

Under Title IX dancelines (dance teams) and the like are considered extracurricular activities. (See enclosed letter from the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.) Although the MSHSL can support an activity that may not meet Title IX guidelines, sanctioning such an activity as a sport misleads districts that it could be counted for the purpose of compliance with Title IX.

We are aware that the position of the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning (see enclosed letter) is that dance team as proposed would not meet the criteria to be counted for gender equity purposes in the State of Minnesota. The MSHSL should demonstrate leadership and not approve the proposed change to Bylaw 500.00 that would add Girls Dance Team as an Interscholastic Sport Activity.

We remind the Assembly of relevant information we shared with Assembly members in the past:

- The NCAA does not have a danceline component at the intercollegiate level, nor has it identified danceline as an "emerging sport" for women.
- The Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission has an objective of targeting special programs to include opportunities for women, seniors and the disadvantaged. Of the over 80 amateur sport organizations and associations they list and support, danceline is not among them.
- The Women's Sports Foundation does not include danceline as a sport.
- The University of Minnesota (U of M) dance team is not part of the Women's Athletic Department nor is it a club program. At the U of M dance team is in the marketing and promotions division of the Men's Athletic Department. (All members of the U of M dance team are female.)

We commend the MSHSL for its progress in gender equity in athletics. The recent additions of badminton and ice hockey for girls are wonderful examples of this progress. We urge you to show continued leadership in equalizing athletic opportunities by defeating the proposal to add dance team as an Interscholastic Sport Activity.

Sincerely,

American Association of University Women of Minnesota

BORN FREE

Mitzi Witziger
Girls Really Expect a Team (GREAT)

League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Minnesota Civil Liberties Union

Minnesota Education Association

Women's Caucus

Ruth Drageser
Minnesota Federation of Teachers
Human Rights Committee

Minnesota Women's History Month

National Organization for Women - Minnesota

Women's Equity Action League - Minnesota

Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport

ACTION



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

ACTION ALERT

550 Rice Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 612-224-5445
Fax 612-292-9417

Government

TO: ALL MINNESOTA LEAGUES
FROM: SUSAN SIMMONDS, VICE PRESIDENT/ACTION
RE: OPPOSE SF 1290 (MOE, ERSKINE-DFL; DEAN JOHNSON, WILLMAR-IR)
DATE: APRIL 19, 1995

1919

A VOICE

FOR CITIZENS,

A FORCE

FOR CHANGE

1994

LWVUS POSITION: *Promote an open governmental system...that protects individual liberties established by the Constitution; that assures opportunities for citizen participation in government decision making...*

LWVMN POSITION: *Support of legislative reform through improved procedures for providing information, adequate research assistance...*

BACKGROUND: In an effort to cut the budget of the Legislature, this bill would eliminate several legislative commissions, including the Commission on the Economic Status of Women (CESW). Minnesota statutes provide "for the commission to study and report on the economic status of women in Minnesota and make recommendations to the governor and legislature." This nonpartisan commission issues reports which provide data for enacting sound public policy.

Organizations such as the League also use the information for our advocacy of women's (and children's) issues. League believes that good information is the basis for drafting and passing good legislation. We also know that "knowledge is power", and if this commission no longer exists important information relating to over half of the population of the state, women, will not be readily available to decision-makers and lobbyists, and the power of the women constituents could be diminished.

As a legislative commission the CESW is nonpartisan in nature. Should its functions be moved to the executive branch LWVMN would have some concerns about the partisan nature of those commissions. We support retention as a nonpartisan commission of the Legislature.

STATUS: SF 1290 has passed out of committee and has gone to the Senate floor. It has not yet been placed on special orders, i.e., it has not yet been scheduled to be heard by the full Senate. Some members of the Senate who have been supporters of the Commission may support the bill because it has "bipartisan" authors, the IR and DFL leaders. It is thus important that we lobby Senators from both parties. Retaining the commission is part of the House budget, so there will ultimately be a conference committee. Stay tuned because we will probably be contacting you later in the session.



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M I N N E S O T A

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
Testimony to Committee on Governmental Operations and Reform
on Senate File 17
by Rebecca Dentz, Intern
March 16, 1993

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports Senate File 17, providing for gender balance in multimember agencies. The League believes in a government which is open and which is representative both in the decision-making and in the political process. Further, we believe that no person or group should suffer administrative discrimination so are pleased to note the inclusive language of subdivision 5a which ensures that the membership of agencies "reflect racial, ethnic, geographic and socioeconomic diversity to the extent possible" in addition to the bill's primary focus on gender fairness. We applaud the bill's effort to realistically address two exceptions to the regulations: that of a "specific gender-defined population," such as battered women, and that which permits a current member of an agency to remain in her/his current position until the normal expiration of her/his term.

In conclusion, the League supports the inclusive language and intent of S.F. 17.



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

Statement on House File 454

March 10, 1993

International Trade, Technology and Economic Development Division
Commerce and Economic Development Committee
Contact: Susan Simmonds (612) 224-5445

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota represents over 3,000 members and supporters, and we have traditionally been active in our communities promoting open governmental processes. When commissions are established at any level of government we are proponents of their being accessible. Requiring a formal annual account of the Department of Trade and Economic Development conforms to our belief that citizens have a right to know the financial and programmatic successes and failures of their public governmental bodies and have access to this information in an expeditious manner.



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550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
Testimony to Committee on Governmental Operations and Reform
on Senate File 17
by Susan Simmonds, Action Chair
March 9, 1993

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports Senate File 17, providing for gender balance in multimember agencies. The League believes in a government which is open and which is representative both in the decision-making and in the political process. Further, we believe that no person or group should suffer administrative discrimination so are pleased to note the inclusive language of subdivision 5a which ensures that the membership of agencies "reflect racial, ethnic, geographic and socioeconomic diversity to the extent possible" in addition to the bill's primary focus on gender fairness. We applaud the bill's effort to realistically address two exceptions to the regulations: that of a "specific gender-defined population," such as battered women, and that which permits a current member of an agency to remain in her/his current position until the normal expiration of her/his term.

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