

News From Senator Shirley K. Turner



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CONTACT: Senator Shirley Turner
(609) 323-7239

TURNER INTRODUCES RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION TO PROVIDE THE U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM WITH EQUAL PAY AND CONDITIONS

TRENTON – Senator Shirley K. Turner (D-Mercer/Hunterdon) today introduced a resolution to support the U.S. Women's Soccer Team's formal wage discrimination complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The resolution encourages the U.S. Soccer Federation to provide the U.S. Women's National Team with equal pay and conditions.

“Pay inequities between men's and women's sports teams have typically been attributed to the amount of revenue and viewership men's teams pull in compared to that of women's teams,” said Turner. “But in the case of the US Women's National Soccer Team, this rationale does not add up after several record-breaking seasons.”

In 2015 more than 25 million people watched the Women's World Cup Championship match, making it the most watched soccer game—men's or women's—in US history. According to this year's Budget Report from the US Soccer Federation, the women's team is more successful at raising revenue, raising \$20 million more than the men's team in 2015. Further, the women's team is projected to bring in more than \$17 million in revenue, including a \$5 million surplus for fiscal year 2017, nearly doubling the men, who are expected to run a \$1 million deficit.

Inequities in U.S. Soccer aren't limited to pay scales, either. Playing, traveling, and training conditions also differ for the women's team compared to the men's. The women's team has at times had to play on artificial turf, which is notorious for causing injuries, while every FIFA-sanctioned men's match is played on natural grass.

“This unequal pay is a reflection of gender wage disparity throughout the workforce. If there were ever an opportune moment for US Women's soccer to advocate for their equal treatment and compensation, it is now,” added Turner. “After winning three World Cup Titles and four Olympic gold medals, the Women's National Team should not have to wait any longer for pay equity—especially when these women are outperforming their male counterparts in equal work.”

