



Advocacy Update

Sent May 8, 2013

Equality for Military Women

More than 400,000 women serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and receive their health insurance from the Department of Defense's Military Health System. But the health insurance available to U.S. servicewomen prevents women in the military from using their own private funds to pay for abortion services in military facilities. Luckily, we have a legislative solution to this in the works in Congress. The MARCH Act (Military Access to Reproductive Care and Health of 2013 – H.R. 1389/S.777) would close this loophole and bring regulations for military women in line with other federal health insurance plans such as Medicaid.

WRJ has pledged through its policy to [support our troops](#) and work to [defend reproductive choice for women](#). Now is time to turn this pledge into action and to make our voices heard. Now is time to protect those who have given so much to protect us. [Read more here](#), and [click here](#) to send a letter to your member of Congress on this topic!

Let Shira Play Basketball!

In 1985, WRJ [passed an important resolution](#) on the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985. This resolution reaffirms WRJ's support of "Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which protects women in education institutions." One of the biggest and most important results of Title IX is the dedication of educational institutions to women's sports teams – a development that has helped millions of women over the last few decades.

Unfortunately, women in Israel do not enjoy the same equality when it comes to sports. The regulations of the Israeli Basketball Association state that although teams are mixed (boys and girls) until the players are 12, if an Orthodox group doesn't want to play against girls because it offends their religious inclinations, the girls should be banned from the game, or their team would forfeit. The [Israel Religious Action Center's](#) legal team has filed two appeals with the Israeli Youth Basketball Association to end this unfair practice, and to allow girls to play with their teams.

WRJ has teamed up with IRAC on important projects before, including on fighting for [equality at the Kotel](#). It is important that we stand by our Israeli sisters today as well. If you are a participant [in the WRJ Israel twinning program](#), reach out to your Israeli counterpart and ask how you can help. [Click here](#) to learn how you can become involved in spreading IRAC's important message, and be sure to [share news of this particular injustice](#) on your own lists and social media platforms! If you want to tell Prime Minister Netanyahu how you feel about this issue, [click here](#) for information on how to contact him.

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home