

*Few wish, but in
Sen. Judy Robson*

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The Capital Times March 12, 2003

AUTHORIZED BY SENATOR

ROBSON

SEN. JUDY ROBSON

'Curves' bill OKs sex bias



Robson

Senate Bill 24 is a solution in search of a problem. The bill would allow fitness centers that are designed for use by one sex to exclude the other sex. It is known as the "Curves" bill, after

the women's fitness center chain that is pushing for this legislation.

According to the testimony at the public hearing, very few men have joined women's fitness centers. Even so, the bill's supporters feel a pre-emptive strike is needed. Their rationale for keeping out men? Because women feel self-conscious working out in the presence of men. They don't want men looking at them when they might not look their best.

This is no reason to weaken our anti-discrimination laws.

I know that many women prefer to work out among women only. I have heard from dozens of happy members of women's fitness centers. Their stories of weight loss, strength gain and improved health are heartening. It is wonderful that they have a place to work out where they feel comfortable.

Even so, I do not believe state law should sanction women-only and men-only fitness centers. We cannot legislate away self-consciousness. We cannot legislate away ogling.

Senate Bill 24 is not, as its supporters contend, an innocuous extension of the law that allows separate bathrooms, showers, saunas and dressing rooms. In those venues, people are nude or partially nude. In a fitness center, they are clothed,

If we chip away at our public accommodations law, it will be that much harder to preserve our gains, such as Title IX for girls and women's sports, which the Bush administration would like to weaken. Using a woman's discomfort about exercising in the presence of men as a justification for chipping away at anti-discrimination laws makes as much sense as claiming that women are physiologically unable to run the Boston Marathon.

more so than at swimming pools, beaches and waterparks.

The danger of Senate Bill 24 is that it goes in the wrong direction. Men are not beating on the doors to get into fitness centers, where the equipment, atmosphere and regimen are geared toward women. But women have for decades been beating on the doors to get into male spheres. Private clubs like the Augusta National Golf Club are among the last bastions of gender discrimination. I hope that public pressure will soon force those private clubs to open their membership to women.

Meanwhile, I will fight to preserve Wisconsin's anti-discrimination laws. I have experienced discrimination due to my sex. I have witnessed the struggle to knock down barriers to equal opportunity. I have seen the progress women have made in the past half century. If we chip away at our public accommodations law, it

will be that much harder to preserve our gains, such as Title IX for girls and women's sports, which the Bush administration would like to weaken.

In 1966, women were not allowed to run in the Boston Marathon. They were told they were not physiologically able to run 26 miles. That year, Roberta Gibb passed herself off as a man in order to run. The next year, Katherine Switzer did the same thing. When Switzer was running, race officials tried to pull off her race number and throw her out of the race.

Those women had a lot of courage to do what they did. It took great courage on the part of many women over the years to gain equal access to public accommodations.

Using a woman's discomfort about exercising in the presence of men as a justification for chipping away at anti-discrimination laws makes as much sense as claiming that women are physiologically unable to run the Boston Marathon.

...

If all that the Curves corporation wants is to be able to advertise as a women's fitness center, then the law can be changed to let them do that. But Curves wants more than that. Curves wants to sanction sex discrimination at fitness centers.

Senate Bill 24 is a solution desperately in search of a problem. There is no compelling need to weaken our anti-discrimination laws.

Judy Robson, D-Beloit, represents most of Rock County and part of Walworth County in the state Senate.

*Not
Sex Subj*

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ACTION

Small Business

AB-81. Economic impact statements for bill and proposed rules that would have a direct economic impact on the private sector. **LRBa0396/1 adopted, 10-0. Passage as amended recommend, 10-0.**

SB-24. Exception to certain anti-discrimination laws for same sex fitness centers. **Passage recommended, 9-1.**

WISCONSIN: Fatal crashes on record pace/B3

LOCAL

Wisconsin State Journal

City Editor: Phil Glende, (608) 252-6117

B

ACLU wants Senate to drop 'Curves bill'

Group's spokesman says bill 'would put women in a cage'

By Tom Sheehan

State government reporter

A bill allowing fitness centers to discriminate based on gender would set the civil rights movement back years and perpetuate stereotypes about women, say opponents.

Senate Bill 24 — known as the "Curves bill," for a chain of fitness centers that market to women — is set for action today by the state Senate.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin wants the Senate to drop consideration of the bill, which would exempt fitness centers from laws that prohibit discrimination in public accommodations, such as busi-

nesses and restaurants.

The bill may be well-intended but "would put women in a cage instead," said Chris Ahmuty, executive director of the ACLU of Wisconsin.

"If you argue this is OK for some types of fitness centers or if it's OK for some public accommodations, why not all of them? It's sort of taking us back to the days where prejudice kept women out of some facilities," Ahmuty said.

The owners of more than 170 Curves in Wisconsin face complaints filed with the state Equal Rights Division by a La Crosse man. Charles Swayne, a former health club operator, said he wanted to market programs to women in the 1990s but was told

IF YOU GO

◆ **What:** Senate consideration of Senate Bill 24, also known as "the Curves bill."

◆ **When:** Tuesday sometime after 10 a.m., depending on how quickly the Senate acts on other matters on its agenda.

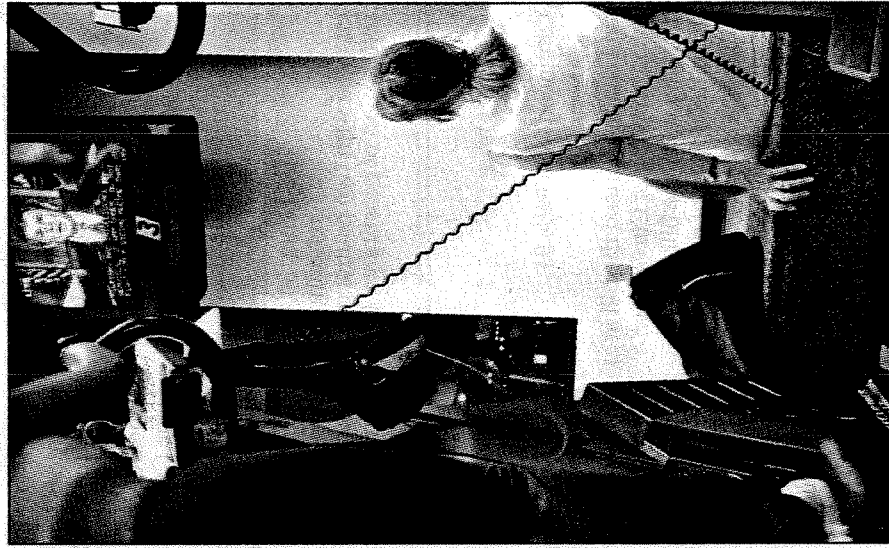
◆ **Where:** Senate chamber, state Capitol.

by state officials that he couldn't.

An administrative law judge ruled in Swayne's favor in one case, which has been appealed by Curves. The other cases are pending.

Sen. Carol Roessler, R-Oshkosh,

Please see **CURVES**, Page B2



SARAH B. TEWS/WSJ

President Bush speaks to the nation Monday while patrons at the West Side Madison Princeton Club, 6680 Odana Road, listen and watch as they work out. In his address, Bush issued an ultimatum to Saddam Hussein, giving him 48 hours to get out of Iraq or face

When it comes to the Curves bill, just pass it

The state Senate will consider this week the "Curves" bill, which would allow fitness centers to limit their memberships to women-only or men-only. It is a commonsense bill that deserves to sail through with a minimum of heavy lifting.

Some Democrats, of course, have already jumped on their rhetorical treadmills. They chug forth the overheated argument that allowing one tiny exception to civil rights laws will cause the whole anti-gender bias infrastructure to come crashing down. Allow women to sweat without men around, they warn, and you can kiss Title IX good-bye. It'll be a fast track back to the bad old days when women were prohibited from running in marathons, driving in the Indy 500, and golfing in PGA tournaments.

How silly.

The bill, sponsored by state Sen. Carol Roessler, R-

Oshkosh, was written in response to 173 complaints against the Curves fitness chain, all filed by a La Crosse health club owner whom the state previously barred from opening his own women-only fitness center. That decision may have been legally correct, but it wasn't right then — and still isn't.

For the record, Curves says it will accept male members — but none have applied. A corporate spokesman says Wisconsin is the only state in which the franchised fitness centers have faced discrimination claims. The Legislative Reference Bureau says several other states allow narrow exemptions for fitness centers in anti-bias laws.

Every health expert in the country says we ought to be getting more exercise. If that means offering places where women can exercise without men — and vice-versa — where's the harm?

Just do it.

Monday, March 10, 2003

Wisconsin State Journal

JAMES W. HOPSON Publisher

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From: "McBride, Robin" <RMcBride@restat.com> | This is Spam | Add to Address Book
To: "cindyred99@yahoo.com" <cindyred99@yahoo.com>
Subject: Curves

Date: Fri, 21 Feb 2003 15:41:36 -0600

FEB 27 2003

Curves should remain open to women only. I've been a member of Curves for more than 1 year and I really enjoy the 'non' pressure of not having men there. There is a difference between men and women, and it's these differences that make a woman uncomfortable. I like to come to Curves as I am, work out without feeling self-conscious. Curves should remain for women only.

Cindy Redeker

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SENATE BILL 24 (CURVES)

SA 1 (Committee amendment)

Defines fitness center to exclude facilities that solely offer training or facilities for an individual sport.

SA 2 (Carpenter)

Deletes most of language from original bill. The bill allows a fitness center to exclude one sex from the facility. This amendment would instead allow a fitness center to give preferential treatment to one sex and advertise in that manner, but would not allow a complete exclusion.

SENATE BILL 14 (PEEPING TOM)

SA 1 (as amended by SA 1 to SA 1 Carpenter)

Removes sex offender registry requirement if looking on private property but no one is present.

SA 2 (Roessler)

Adds language that clarifies it is not a crime to peep with the permission of every person present in the dwelling. Makes it clear that it is a crime to peep even if no one is home.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15 (2/3RDS FOR TAX INCREASES)

SA 1 (Carpenter)

Apply to all taxes

SA 2 (Carpenter)

Allows a tax increase on a simple majority vote if the revenues are used to lower property taxes

SA 3 (Carpenter)

Includes property taxes

SA 4(Carpenter)

Allows a tax increase on a simple majority vote if the revenue is used to increase the homestead credit.

SA 5 (Carpenter)

Includes gas tax

See attached for your notes

Response to Carpenter's Amendment to SB 24

SB 24 should remain as originally drafted. The amendment(s) offered by Senator Carpenter would not allow a fitness center to operate so as to ensure the reasonable privacy rights of females/males based on the physical differences between the sexes which is consistent with the already existing gender-based exemptions in the Public Accommodations Law, such as for dressing rooms, toilets, showers and college dorm rooms.

This amendment(s) would also still leave open to judicial interpretation whether advertising terms such as "Women's Fitness Center" or "Curves® for Women" would be allowed. It is possible that a party could argue that such terms are meant to "exclude" the other gender and not just intend to appeal primarily to one sex for use of the fitness center's services or facilities.

The purpose of SB 24 is clearly set forth for all Wisconsinites that a fitness center can be operated for use by one gender if so offered by the operator of the fitness center. The original draft of SB 24 accomplishes that goal.

AMENDMENT TO SB 24

SB 24 should remain as originally drafted. The amendment(s) offered by Senator Carpenter would not allow a fitness center to operate so as to ~~change~~ the reasonable privacy rights of females/males based on the physical differences between the sexes which is consistent with the already existing gender-based exemptions in the Public Accommodations Law, such as for dressing rooms, toilets, showers and college dorm rooms.

Does not allow separate showering

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Same

The purpose of SB 24 is to clearly set forth for all Wisconsinites that a fitness center can be operated for use by one gender if so offered by the operator of the fitness center. The original draft of SB 24 accomplishes that goal.

May

SC A

~~adv. primarily for~~

~~services primarily for~~

~~exclusion~~

~~would not allow separate~~

~~or separate shower only
to M or W~~

"freedom of choice to do so"

Would allow facilities to advertise and cater to one gender, but would not allow the facility to be gender exclusive

2003 - 2004 LEGISLATURE

LRBa0091/3
GMM:kjf:pg

would not allow a fitness center to ensure privacy rights of females/male based on the physical differences between the sexes

**SENATE AMENDMENT 2,
TO 2003 SENATE BILL 24**

Make
Rejection

Unclear if Fitness Center

if "Women's Center" or "Curves for women"

would be protected under this amendment

as advertising, or if using gender exclusive titles would be considered to be excluded rather than just appealing to the one gender

March 18, 2003 - Offered by Senators Carpenter and Robson.

*** AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE ***

- 1 At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:
- 2 **1.** Page 1, line 4: delete lines 4 and 5 and substitute "intended to appeal
- 3 primarily to persons of the same sex to provide facilities and services that appeal
- 4 primarily to persons of that sex and to give preferential treatment in the use of those
- 5 services or facilities to persons of that sex."
- 6 **2.** Page 2, line 3: delete lines 3 to 9 and substitute "s. 100.177 (1) (c), whose
- 7 services or facilities are intended to appeal primarily to persons of the same sex from
- 8 providing services or facilities that appeal primarily to persons of that sex, from
- 9 giving preferential treatment in the use of those services or facilities to persons of the
- 10 same sex, or from directly or indirectly publishing, circulating, displaying, or mailing
- 11 any written communication to the effect that those services or facilities are intended
- 12 to appeal primarily to persons of the same sex."

13 (END)



State of Wisconsin
2003 - 2004 LEGISLATURE

LRBa0091/3
GMM:kjf:pg

SENATE AMENDMENT, 2
TO 2003 SENATE BILL 24

By Senators Carpenter and Robson

~~More Rejection~~

~~Get's bill
Not allow freedom of choice to exercise with peers same sex~~

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9 giving preferential treatment in the use of those services or facilities to persons of the
10 same sex, or from directly or indirectly publishing, circulating, displaying, or mailing
11 any written communication to the effect that those services or facilities are intended
12 to appeal primarily to persons of the same sex."

13

(END)

DshNW 3/13/03

Augusta tees up healthy slice of sexism

So if Annika Sorenstam is qualified enough to play with the guys at the PGA Colonial tournament, why isn't she good enough to join the Augusta National Golf Club, which sponsors the annual Masters tournament?

A better question: If you're a member of the club's board of directors, do you even bother trying to continue putting a good face on what amounts to sexism, pure and simple? I mean, can you ever really spin misogyny into something stately and traditional?

C'mon. This is really about guys not wanting women around where guys just want to be guys, whatever that means. So pro teams have their women reporters into players' locker rooms but the Augusta National Golf Club may be a bit too much for them?

Oh, but wait a minute. These guys in Augusta can't be sexist. They're genteel golfers who likely have wives and daughters.

So how do you look that wife or daughter in the eye and say, "You know, you're OK to live with and I hope all the best for you, but you're not good enough to be in my club?"

I understand how some guys (but not me, honey) crave a place where they can "just be guys." Guys can talk to other guys about stuff that many don't feel secure enough to talk to women about or have women overhear. The same for women.

OK. I like to talk to my buddies, but we haven't formed any club.

Augusta's version, no matter how you spin it, says, "You're just not good enough."

If a club did this with minorities, it could legitimately be called racist. If someone were to ask if we cared to join a club that excluded

minorities, most of us would quickly make a value judgment about that person and that club.

All of which means that we can legitimately make a value judgment on the Augusta National Golf Club. It is sexist.

Oh, but that's right. It's different between men and women. There's that sexual tension thing allegedly going on all the time. Funny, most of us have no problem handling this tension in our everyday lives. Besides, back in Jim Crow days, folks were talking about unbridgeable differences, too. About "comfort levels."

In reality, the Augusta club is meant to be an escape from the necessity of what? Being civil and courteous?

Without a doubt, a private club that accepts no government money has the absolute right to be as exclusive as it wants, any way it wants. That doesn't make it right.

In any case, wouldn't a major television network then have the prerogative not to support a sexist club by televising its tournament in April?

So far, pro male golfers have not demonstrated the proper use of prerogative in this case. If they did, they would choose not to participate, if invited, in the Masters in April.

So that leaves a prerogative far likelier to be exercised. Simply don't watch the tournament when it is televised.

Understand, I've never gotten any thrill from watching golf. This might have some-

thing to do with the fact that I don't play. But I know that, here in Arizona, for instance, there are folks who like to play a bit. They like it so much they even play in our summer blast-furnace temperatures. I'm guessing a lot of them have wives or daughters whom they're kind of fond of. Do it for them.

There is, however, a face-saving way for the Augusta National Golf Club to get out of this embarrassment.

I notice that the formula for getting invited to the Masters involves winning various PGA tournaments. In other words, PGA leaders play. Why not include a limited number of LPGA leaders?

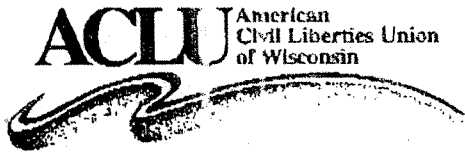
They're not good enough? Well, I also notice that amateur male golfers are invited to play in the Masters, a tribute to its amateur beginnings. Sorenstam and other LPGA leaders are likely far better than a lot, if not all, of these guys.

If Sorenstam is good enough for the Colonial in Fort Worth, she's good enough to play at the Masters if she wants. And if she can play in the masters - if she is at least as good as those male amateurs allowed to play - she is especially good enough to be part of the club if that's her wish. The fact is, any woman

What have the august gentlemen in Augusta got to lose other than their sexism?

RICARDO PIMENTEL is a columnist for the Arizona Republic. He may be reached c/o Tribune Media Services, 435 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1500, Chicago, Ill. 60611, or by email ricardo.pimentel@arizonarepublic.com

Handwritten notes: "I just include 'PWS' in the 'Covers' file" and "PWS" written vertically.



FLOOR DISTRIBUTION
AUTHORIZED BY SENATOR
CARPENTER

March 17, 2003

Senator Carol Roessler
Wisconsin State Senate
State Capitol -- Room 8 South
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Via Fax to 608.266.0423

Dear Senator Roessler:

I'm writing to ask you to reconsider your sponsorship of Senate Bill 24, the so-called Curves bill. Senate Bill 24 would allow fitness centers to operate and market themselves as exclusively for the use of women or men. While you may wish to address the concerns of some women, who may feel uncomfortable when men use the same fitness centers, this bill weakens the protections that women and men deserve under Wisconsin's anti-discrimination laws.

I'm sure that you know that in the past many laws were on the books that supposedly protected the "weaker sex," but these laws in reality denied women the right to manage their own money, to find family-sustaining employment, to belong to clubs where careers are advanced, to frequent businesses (such as restaurants) that preferred men, and to receive an equitable share of the benefits of government programs. While these laws purported to put women on a pedestal, they put women in a cage instead, as Justice Brennan noted.

The American Civil Liberties Union's Women's Rights Project under the leadership of Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the 1970s successfully argued that the Court should strike down many of these laws. The ACLU of Wisconsin in the 1972 had to go to federal court in Milwaukee to prevent Heinemann's restaurant on Wisconsin Avenue from excluding women from its "Men's Grill." The Court found that Heinemann's policy violated the equal protection of the laws as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.

To paraphrase just one of the ACLU's arguments in these cases: when women are excluded or discriminated against because of their gender, it not only hurts them, it hurts us all. When businesses discriminate on the basis of sex or race, they perpetuate harmful stereotypes that divide us and deny us the benefits of a diverse, vigorous and just society.

It has been suggested that perhaps, these discriminating fitness centers could advertise their suitability or preference for one sex over the other, but still admit the less favored sex. The ACLU of Wisconsin urges you not to allow advertisements that put off men or

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Milwaukee, WI 53202-5774
(414) 272-4032 • FAX (414) 272-0182
e-mail: Liberty@aclu-wi.org
<http://www.aclu-wi.org>

State Sen. Carol Roessler
March 17, 2003
page two.

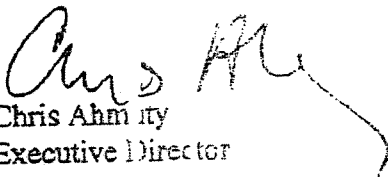
women from patronizing a center. Discrimination is not acceptable, just because the unwelcome party doesn't bother to present themselves where they are not welcome.

It may also be suggested that if this exception is appropriate for profit seeking businesses, then it is appropriate for non-profit organizations as well. This suggestion of course adds to harm that Senate Bill 24 already proposes. One doesn't have to raise the specter of a slippery slope, this is evidence of a further erosion of women's rights.

On behalf of ACLU members in Wisconsin, I ask you to reconsider your sponsorship of the ill-conceived bill and urge your Senate colleagues to drop this measure.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours


Chris Ahmity
Executive Director

Constituents

Curves - SB24/AB64

Maxine Assaf	Eldorado
Connie Baasch	Fond Du Lac
Bonnie Badura	Fond Du Lac
Peggy Battig	Oakfield
Debra Bergen	Fond Du Lac
Lois Callies	Fond Du Lac
Nancy Lee Candlish	Fond Du Lac
Karen Courtney	Fond Du Lac
Cheryl Faucett	Fond Du Lac
Kara Faucett	Fond Du Lac
Kellie Hare	Fond Du Lac
Mary Havey	North Fond Du Lac
S. Havican	Fond Du Lac
Kris Hilt	Fond Du Lac
Christina Hoyt	Fond Du Lac
Vel Hynek	Fond Du Lac
Peggy Kallas	Fond Du Lac
Amy LaPointe	North Fond Du Lac
Kimm Lawniczak	Fond Du Lac
Nancy Loehr	Mount Calvary
Jean March	Fond Du Lac
Pamela Marcoe	Fond Du Lac
Paula Mathes	North Fond Du Lac
Marie Minz	Campbellsport
Patty Nells	North Fond Du Lac
Diana O'Brien	VAN DYNE
Roseann O'Connor	North Fond Du Lac
Victoria O'Grady	Fond Du Lac
Todd Palecek	Oshkosh
Teresa Rauls	Fond Du Lac
Ericka Reitz	Fond Du Lac
Karyn Slater	Fond Du Lac
Karie Tackett	Van Dyne
Sandra Vercauteren	BYRON
Chris Weed	Fond Du Lac
Luella Wiese	Fond Du Lac
Dori Winters	Fond Du Lac
Cathy Wojkiewicz	Fond Du Lac
Arnette Woskow	Fond Du Lac

SS

FEB 25 2003

Vel Hynek
N9216 Willow lane Beach
Fond du Lac Wi. 54935

2/19/03

Dear Sirs,

I have been an active member of Curves for Women in Fond du Lac Wi. for a over a year now and have found it to be the most enjoyable type of exercise I have tried. I am 53 years of age and understand the need for exercise to maintain a healthy body and mind. I have been involved with a variety of exercise clubs throughout my life. All of these clubs or organizations have been co-ed and they design all of there routines to satisfy both sexes. I have never lasted very long in these for several reasons:

- I need a very structured type of exercise and most of the routines in past clubs, designed for men and women, were not structured enough. The routines were self paced to satisfy both sexes.
- I have tried aerobics, but am not co-coordinated enough, and with my busy schedule, I could not afford over one hour of predetermined time and scheduled dates.
- I firmly believe the most important reason is my comfort in working out with women only. The stretching, bending and other exercises put our body through some very compromising positions and frankly I do not want a man staring at me in those positions.

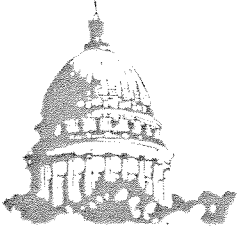
Curves for women program is one half hour in length, no guess work exercise routines, my available time, and no men. This program works – you tone up, get your cardiovascular working and by the way you can loose weight.

As we all know there is a huge and ever growing problem with obesity and lack of exercise in this country. Who should even begin to question the right of women to get more physically fit in a place where they feel most comfortable. Again, one of the main reason that most of the women at Curves are there, is because they feel comfortable working out with other women. The routine, the machines the atmosphere are all designed for women only and I firmly believe that the women that need the exercise the most will not attend if men were present.

Our elected officials need to do whatever it takes to allow these type of clubs to remain women only.

Vel Hynek





WISCONSIN STATE SENATE
TIM CARPENTER
SENATOR – 3RD DISTRICT

State Capitol * P.O. Box 7882 * Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 * Phone: (608) 266-8535

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care:

From: Senator Tim Carpenter

Date: March 5, 2003

Re: Senate Bill 24

You will now have received two memorandums Senator Roessler, which state that I intend to introduce a particular amendment at the executive session Senator Roessler has called for March 6, 2003. For the record, at no time have I stated that I was going to introduce any amendment at the executive session.

In good faith, I have diligently attempted to work with Senator Roessler to craft legislation that resolves the legal issues facing Curves for Women, and yet avoid SB 24's attempted reintroduction of sexual discrimination in Wisconsin fitness centers. In conjunction with Legislative Council, I have drafted several amendments, specifically tracking and protecting fitness centers like Curves from the statutes used against Curves in its recent litigation. Despite my sending these amendments to Senator Roessler and asking for her comment, Senator Roessler unfortunately never responded to my overtures.

On March 4, 2003, hearing no response from Senator Roessler to my efforts, my office personally contacted Curve's attorney, Tom Keiffer. I tried to try to find out why an amendment that would allow Curves to continue to operate its business as it had, and take care of its legal issues against it, would not be acceptable. I am informed that Tom Keiffer was candid and courteous in his conversation. After that conversation, Senator Roessler's distributed her March 4, 2003 statement from Curves' attorney.

We all understand that Curves hired its lawyers not to craft good legislation, but to aggressively represent its interests. In its hard-line attempt to get what is best for its business, Curves has no need to care for the unintended consequences of its actions. While the over-breadth of the Curves' corporate reintroduction of discrimination inoculates Curves' business from present litigation, SB 24 will have unintended consequences that thoughtful legislators must consider – consequences that those hired to pursue Curves' business interest may ignore or freely pass on to future legislatures. Discrimination is not to be lightly reintroduced into society to serve business interests.

*LWK TUB
my T files
on my mind
not sent*

It is an old saw that "good cases make bad law," meaning that an emotional issue can initiate a poor law of general application. And while we can agree that Curves should be able to continue its business as it has in the past, legislative overkill is not a result we can be proud of, when less-restrictive measures will suffice. What an attorney believes is best for his own client may not make for the best legislation. As legislators, we have a duty to do more than co-opt the arguments of corporate litigation counsel, and a duty to make sure legislation is good for the citizens of Wisconsin, not just the business interests of one company.

I respectfully submit to the committee chair and members that the merits of my amendment will make SB 24 more appropriate for the people of Wisconsin, and I intend to raise the amendment for discussion the executive session.



Carol Roessler
STATE SENATOR

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging
and Long Term Care

From: Senator Carol Roessler

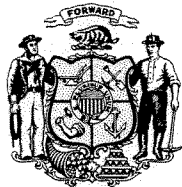
Date: March 4, 2003

Re: Amendment to Senate Bill 24

Earlier today you received a copy of an amendment Senator Carpenter has indicated he would be introducing during executive session on Senate Bill 24.

Attached you will find a response my office received from Tom Kieffer, an attorney for Curves for Women, regarding Senator Carpenter's amendment. Curves for Women asked that I distribute the response to your office for your review.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office.



Carol Roessler
STATE SENATOR

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care

From: Senator Carol Roessler

Date: March 4, 2003

Re: Amendments to Senate Bill 24

As you know, the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care will be holding an executive session on Thursday, March 6 at 8:30am.

Attached are two amendments that members have indicated they will be offering during the executive session on Senate Bill 24. Senator Roessler will be offering LRBa0107/1. Senator Carpenter will be offering LRBa0091/3.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office or Laura Rose at Legislative Council.

LADIES DINNERS

NOT WIG

FLOOR DISTRIBUTION
AUTHORIZED BY SENATOR
CARPENTER

Senator 15



Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc.
600 Williamson Street, Ste. N-2
Madison, WI 53703
608-257-1516

March 18, 2003

Senator Carol Roessler
8 South State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Roessler:

My name is Lisa Macaulay and I am the Policy Specialist at the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. (WCASA) I am writing to you in regards to Senate Bill 24, which you introduced. It has been referred to as the "Curves Bill."

While we understand that women may feel, for safety reasons, the need and desire to be able to workout separately from men, we question whether there is a need to address this issue through legislation.

Members of our staff and membership have raised concerns over the unintended consequences this bill may have in the future. The language in SB24, if passed, could pave the way for women to be once again excluded from places of power. As written, SB24 would not prevent men from forming a "fitness club" and inviting only male legislators to join. They could re-create the old boys network. Women and minorities have fought long and hard to break through the glass ceiling. We would hate to see good intentioned legislation "brick over" that ceiling.

We ask that you reconsider passage of SB24. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 608-257-1516.

Sincerely,

Lisa Macaulay
Policy Specialist
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc.



SENATE AMENDMENT,
TO 2003 SENATE BILL 24

Sen. Roessler

- Payment fee not sufficient

Amended services to members

Non profit would not put non profit exclusive

1 At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

2 1. Page 2, line 1: delete that line and substitute:

3 "SECTION 1d. 106.52 (1) (cm) of the statutes is created to read:

4 106.52 (1) (cm) "Fitness center" means an establishment, whether operated for
5 profit or not for profit, that provides as its primary purpose services or facilities that
6 are purported to assist patrons in physical exercise, in weight control, or in figure
7 development. "Fitness center" does not include an organization solely offering
8 training or facilities in an individual sport or a weight reduction center, as defined
9 in s. 100.177 (1) (e).

10 SECTION 1m. 106.52 (3) (e) of the statutes is created to read:".

11 2. Page 2, line 2: delete ", as defined in".

12 3. Page 2, line 3: delete "s. 100.177 (1) (c),".

13 (END)

Jermstad, Sara

From: Jermstad, Sara
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2003 9:02 AM
To: Jermstad, Sara; Jermstad, Sara
Subject: New Forward Contact Ownership and Assignment

Constituent: Ericka Reitz (176918)
339 Ledgeview Ave
Fond Du Lac, WI 54935-3677

Owner: Jermstad, Sara
Assigned: Jermstad, Sara
Summary: Curves

Issue:
Position:
Status: Done
Contact Type: E-mail
Description:

-----Original Message-----

From: Ericka Reitz [mailto:ereitz@dotnet.com]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2003 6:44 PM
To: Roessler, Carol
Subject: Re: CURVES for WOMEN

My address is:
Ericka Reitz
339 Ledgeview Avenue
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Thank YOU!

----- Original Message -----

From: "Roessler, Carol" <Carol.Roessler@legis.state.wi.us>
To: <ereitz@dotnet.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2003 2:58 PM
Subject: RE: CURVES for WOMEN

Thank you for your email.

Due to the volume of emails I receive, I ask that all emails include a home address. This will ensure that my constituents receive the highest priority. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

CAROL ROESSLER

State Senator

18th Senate District

-----Original Message-----

From: Ericka Reitz [mailto:ereitz@dotnet.com]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2003 2:11 PM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: CURVES for WOMEN

Dear Senator Carol Roessler,
I just wanted to tell you what CURVES has done for me. Not only has it helped me lose weight after 2 babies in 3 years but it has given me more self esteem and a place to go where I can be myself and not have to worry about what I look like when I go workout. It's my sanity everyday to be away from my 3 small children for 30 minutes a day to visit with others about "girl" stuff. I love my CURVES and will tell anyone who will listen. So thanks for listening!

Thanks,
Ericka D. Reitz
Independent Sales Director
The Pampered Chef®
920-921-2091

Jermstad, Sara

From: Jermstad, Sara
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2003 9:05 AM
To: Jermstad, Sara; Jermstad, Sara
Subject: New Forward Contact Ownership and Assignment

Constituent: Kris Hilt (176922)
N5104 County Road Uu
Fond Du Lac, WI 54935-9616

Owner: Jermstad, Sara
Assigned: Jermstad, Sara
Summary: Curves

Issue:
Position:
Status: Done
Contact Type: E-mail
Description:

-----Original Message-----

From: Gerry Hilt [mailto:wfyhilt@execpc.com]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2003 8:15 PM
To: Roessler, Carol
Subject: Re: Curves For Women

My name is Kris Hilt
address: N5104 County Road UU, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

"Roessler, Carol" wrote:

> Thank you for your email.
>
> Due to the volume of emails I receive, I ask that all emails include a home address. This will ensure that my constituents receive the highest priority. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. I look forward to your response.

>
>
> Sincerely,
>
> CAROL ROESSLER
>
> State Senator
>
> 18th Senate Distric

>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> **From:** Gerry Hilt [mailto:wfyhilt@execpc.com]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2003 9:27 PM
> **To:** sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us; john.townsend@legis.state.wi.us
> **Subject:** Curves For Women

>
> Dear Senator Roessler and Representative Townsend:
>
> I'm writing to ask that you support Curves exercise facilities for
> women. I understand that someone wants to sue Curves for discrimination

> because the facilities are for women only. I just joined Curves a
> couple of months ago, and I absolutely love the place. I would be very
> disappointed if it were open to men. Women need a place to exercise
> without the presence of the opposite sex. I used to belong to a co-ed
> club a few years ago, and I have to tell you that my work out sessions
> were not enjoyable for me, or for many of the other women there. A
> women-only facility is a much more comfortable environment for us to
> work out in. Frankly, I cannot understand why a man would even want
> to use the equipment at Curves. It's a very low impact program, and the
> machines are designed to enhance a woman's body, not a man's. I look
> forward to my work out at Curves every day, and want it to stay the
> exactly the way it is. Please support Curves in their efforts to thwart
> this lawsuit.

>
> Thank You,
> Kris Hilt
> Curves Member - Fond du Lac, WI

SS
FEB 19 2003

February 13, 2003

Paula Mathes
1825 Minnesota Avenue
N. Fond Du Lac, WI
54937

Senator Carol Roessler
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI
53707

Dear Senator Roessler,

Thank you for taking the time to review my letter. I am writing to you to voice my support of the "Curves" fitness centers. The center focus' on well-being by striving for good health with weight loss, management and toning. They provide education to help reach these goals.

It is my understanding that Curves is being sued by a gentlemen who states the center is just for women. This could not be farther from the truth. The center even offers a program which includes health shakes and vitamins specifically designed for men. The Curves in Fond Du Lac would welcome any male interested in working out. The door is always open.

I have attended Curves now for exactly one year. My story is a successful one in the fact that I have lost 88 lbs. I would love to share my story with who ever would like to listen, female or male.

Again, Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Paula Mathes

Paula Mathes, RN

FEB 11 2003

Feb. 12, 2003

SS

Senator Roessler,

I am in favor of having women only health clubs. I belong to the Curves For Women in Fond du Lac and one of the main reasons for my joining was that there weren't any men working out there.

Sincerely,
Cathy Wojcikiewicz
256 N Park Ave
FDL

SS

FEB 17 2003

FEB 17 2003

Peggy Kallas
585 E. Division St.
Fond du Lac, WI. 54935

February 14, 2003

Senator Carol Roessler
P. O. Box 7882
Madison, WI. 53709

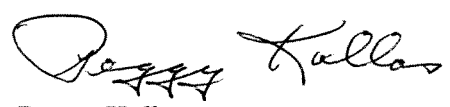
Dear Senator Roessler:

I am writing you this letter to let you know how much I LOVE CURVES. I started attending Curves last year at the end of April. I also signed up for Weight Watchers the same week. My weight was just the most I have ever weighted and I knew something had to be done.

I lost 20 pounds and have maintained my goal weight of 130 pounds since September of 2002. But, by attending Curves I have lost inches everywhere and look and feel terrific. Not only do I look and feel good, my cholesterol and blood pressure have dropped significantly. I can bend down to tie my shoes with ease. I have a great deal of energy and I sleep better. I am 70 years old and no one can believe it. By attending Curves three times a week I get the exercise necessary for me.

Curves has helped me achieve the above and that is why I love CURVES.

Sincerely,



Peggy Kallas

February 14, 2003

no address SS

FEB 17 2003

Dear Senator Roessler,

This is to express my appreciation for having a "Curves For Women" in Ford du Lac. I find it a very comfortable place to exercise in the company of other women.

I have found it has reduced stress and inches! It has been very convenient for many of the City-County workers as it is within walking distance of our workplace.

I hope it will remain a "for women only" facility.

Sincerely,

Vicki O'Grady
106 Pleasant Dr, FOL

FEB 17 2003

SS

February 12, 2003

Dear Senator Carol Roessler,

I ask for your support of the proposal that will allow an exercise business like CURVES to be for women only. I belong to CURVES and while I have no problem with men and women belonging to the same organizations, I would feel very uncomfortable during my exercise time to have men present. While I DON'T agree with the article in last week's Fond du Lac Reporter about women being uncomfortable in the presence of men because they (we) would be concerned about wearing the right make up or clothing, I do like the relaxed atmosphere at CURVES because men are not present. I have belonged to many other exercise places and many of the men would pay more attention to the well-endowed females than to their exercising.

So, please support the current proposal.

Sincerely,



Nancy Candlish
1069 Martin Ave
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Jermstad, Sara

From: Seaquist, Sara
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2003 3:12 PM
To: Jermstad, Sara
Subject: FW: Curves for Women

CR email- curves

-----Original Message-----

From: Bonnie Badura [mailto:bbdonuts@execpc.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2003 11:39 AM
To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Curves for Women

Dear Carol,

I have been a member of Curves for Women for almost 2 years. It is the first workout group that I have enjoyed being a member of. I appreciate the fact that there is a facility for women only, providing work out equipment geared toward women. It is very comfortable for a woman of my size and age not to be put on display in a coed situation. Please consider voting for the legislation that will allow Curves for Women to remain exclusively for women.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,

Bonnie Badura
Bob and Bonnie's Donuts
54A Halbach Court
Fond du Lac, Wi.