

Senate Bill 984
“Ensuring A Seat at the Table”
Senator Skinner (SD 9) As Introduced, February 2018

THIS BILL

SB 984 will ensure that California has a minimum of 50% female representation on all appointed state boards and commissions.

ISSUE

Women continue to fight for a seat at the table. Currently women make up 50% of California’s population, yet make up only 22% of the members of the California State Legislature. This means that only one in four legislators are women.

For the past several years, women’s representation in elected offices in California has remained stagnant or decreased. In the 2016 state election cycle the number of women elected in office declined. However, California has seen an increase of women serving at the local level. In the 2014-15 election cycle Humboldt County elected an all female city council members.¹

We also see low representation among the boards of directors and upper management of public and private companies in California. According to a University of California Davis study on women business leaders, just 13.3% of *corporate* directors are women.

Gender equity in decision making bodies in business and in government is proven to add value. A study conducted by Catalyst reports that *Fortune 500* companies with the highest

¹ California Women Lead Statewide 2016 Statewide Report- https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/cawomenlead.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/files/7.26.2017_Status_of_Women_in.pdf

representation of women on their board of directors attained significantly higher financial performance than those with the lowest representation of women. The President of Catalyst stated,

“This Catalyst study again demonstrates the very strong correlation between corporate financial performance and gender diversity. We know that diversity, well managed, produces better results.”

Members of state Boards and Commissions play an essential role in shaping and executing the state’s goals. It is not only important that these boards are reflective of California’s residents taking such action will allow the state to be a model for the gender equity that is appropriate for both the public and private sector.

SOLUTION

SB 984 will require a minimum of 50% female representation on all appointed California Government Boards and Commissions. It will also require the Secretary of State to disclose the composition of all state boards and commissions on their website.

SUPPORT

Equal Rights Advocates (Co-Sponsor)

CONTACT

Priscilla Quiroz
Office of Senator Nancy Skinner
State Capitol, Room 2059
(916) 651-4009 | Priscilla.Quiroz@sen.ca.gov