**B.I.R.T Women receive equal pay in sports**

**Hook:** The summer of 2019 marked a new beginning in the world of women’s soccer. The number of people interested in this tournament soared to unprecedented levels. American broadcast networks estimated that 14 million viewers witnessed the final whistle as the U.S Women’s Soccer team beat the Netherlands. **(pause)14 million**. That staggering number is more than every edition of ESPN’s *Monday Night Football* and most NBA Finals Games.

People wanted to watch these women play. Despite the early start time of most soccer matches, they watched. Despite the match aired over a holiday on Sunday, they watched. Despite the longstanding fact that these “girls” are, on average, slower and less-entertaining than the men, Americans watched. Men, women, broadcasters, politicians, celebrities, and athletes watched the women’s game progress over the entirety of the World Cup. But, after the trophy was hoisted and the fanfare quelled, these women went home with less money in their pockets than their male counterparts, who did not qualify for their World Cup in 2018.

Members of the House, based on the current successes of the women’s team, it is time to start paying the USWNT the same as the USMNT. Fanfare and viewership are simply **not enough** **(fist).** Viewership suggests that the women are capable of generating the level of revenue needed to justify this change. **Pause**. But, does their need to be a justification? In all this talk about “viewership” there is one viewer from this former World Cup I forgot to mention. And she was most likely curled up, cross-legged, with her head tipped **(mimic)** upward keenly peering at the television screen: the young girl. To a young girl who has yet to meet maturity, these women are skilled, fast, and entertaining. How could you, as a parent, tell your daughter that 49% of society deserves less for the same level of work and dedication? Would you like to train just as hard, succeed more, but receive less?

**Roadmaps/Resolution/Burden:** Today, Mr. Speaker, we believe this must change. Today, the government is arguing be it resolved that women receive equal pay in sports. Today, I will support this resolution by arguing that the women receive the same pay for the 20 regular season games they play on a national level. I will also outline a new revenue-sharing model that would directly pay bonuses to the players based on how much revenue they generate at soccer games. To support this resolution, I will also address two main points: one, that the current business model is unfair; and, two, the successes of the women’s team should award them equal pay because of the positive media attention turned toward the US as the world’s dominant soccer team. I will conclude by countering the opposition who believe that women’s sports are less entertaining than men’s. This depends on the viewer.

**Lays out the Plan:** We plan to pay the USNWT the same $5,000 per regular season game regardless of their successes on the field. This same group of women will receive one year’s backpay to the tune of $100,000 (20 regular season games) because it was this team that bolstered viewership. If, Mr. Speaker, you truly want to empower those young viewers to see themselves reflected in athletic positions of national importance, these women must be paid the same per game fee. More harm is being done to the progress of women’s sports if we do not begin to pay women their equal share. Equal pay is already becoming a part of other collective bargaining agreements in other sports. Refusal to pay equally could easily result in the women’s team sitting out for an entire season. How does that help ticket sales?

**Main Idea #1 (include, depending on the time, two-three):**

**Assertion:** The women have proven to be a team easily able to generate the funds needed to sustain an increase in salaries.

**Reasoning:** No team roster is better known than that of the USWNT: Solo, Morgan, Rapinoe, and Lloyd are household names in the USA and beyond. They are a successful team who has contributed to America’s dominance in the world of sports. It only seems reasonable, then, that they be compensated for their contributions to the soccer federation.

**Evidence:** According to journalist Emily Kaplan of ESPN, the “from 2016 to 2018, women’s games generated approximately $50.8 million in revenue, compared to the $49.9 million for men’s games.” Does it really matter if the women raised more money over the course of more games played? A profit at the end of the day is just that: pure profit. The more money the women are paid, the more motivated and competitive the women’s soccer world will become over time. No one would suggest that the men make less if they earn less, so why would this argument work in only one way?

**Counter-Argument:** Now, a common argument from my opposition suggests that the USWNT has willfully chosen to enter into a agreement through the collective bargaining process. To that, I argue that the women had some many issues to challenge as is; everyone knows that when entering into a collective bargain one must be strategic. If you ask for too much, you may receive less than you hope to gain. The USWNT knew that field use was necessary to fight; they also felt the pressure to settle quickly for fear that they might lose precious training time.