

KATHY CASTOR  
14TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND POWER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
REGIONAL WHIP



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0914**

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
205 CANNON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3376

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
4144 NORTH ARMENIA AVENUE  
SUITE 300  
TAMPA, FL 33607  
(813) 871-2817

[www.castor.house.gov](http://www.castor.house.gov)

March 3, 2016

Mr. Gianni Infantino  
President  
International Association of Federation Football (FIFA)  
FIFA-Strasse 20  
P.O. Box 80344  
Zurich, Switzerland

RE: Urge FIFA to implement FIFA gender equality reforms

Dear President Infantino:

Congratulations on your election as President of FIFA. I am encouraged by your pledge to strengthen FIFA by making women's soccer a priority and diversifying its leadership and governance. As a Co-Chair of the U.S. Congressional Soccer Caucus and a strong advocate for gender equity in sports and education, I commend you for the gender equity provisions included in the FIFA Reform Committee's package passed on February 26, 2016. Last year I wrote to the United States Soccer Federation encouraging it to push for gender equity reforms and I am pleased to see such progress. I strongly urge FIFA to fully and effectively implement and enforce these gender equity reforms.

The reform package initially requires an increase in voting seats on the FIFA Council for women and prioritizes the promotion of women throughout FIFA. The primary goal of the reforms, however, is to elevate and promote female athletes, soccer teams and female leaders across the globe. FIFA and its related leagues must provide broader opportunities for women and girls. Gender equity through resources and development in soccer leagues, teams and countries should be FIFA's overarching goal.

A clear example of successful gender equity reforms can be seen in Title IX in the United States. Since passage of Title IX, female participation in collegiate sports has flourished. Before Title IX in 1972, less than 30,000 female athletes participated in collegiate athletics and now over five times as many women participate. Title IX did not just elevate women in collegiate sports, but elevated collegiate sports overall. The growth of female collegiate athletes under Title IX have also increased men's opportunities, adding almost 1,000 new men's teams from 1988 to 2011. This transformation did not happen overnight, but took legislative action, strong implementation and unwavering enforcement over decades.

FIFA should seize this opportunity to promote gender equity and thereby open a new chapter of transparency and equal opportunity. Elevating women's international support and competition is a priority for soccer fans. It will take greater leadership and a commitment to meaningful female leadership in FIFA. In its Global Corruption Report, Transparency International found that 64% of soccer fans report wanting more women in key positions at FIFA. Expanding prospects within FIFA for over half of the world's population is a critical step to reform. With FIFA's commitment to stop corruption, it is essential to implement and enforce the gender equity provisions.

I urge FIFA to implement and strongly enforce the gender equity reforms and to raise the status of women in international football. In doing so, FIFA is well-positioned to lead the way and champion Title IX-like reforms at the international level. Providing equal opportunity for women and girls in the world's most popular sport will empower them to reach for new heights throughout their lives no matter where they live. Therefore, I urge you to adopt a robust plan for implementation of the reform package and to devote the resources necessary to make it meaningful for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Castor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Castor  
United States Representative  
Florida - District 14

CC:

Mr. Sunil Gulati  
President  
United States Soccer Federation  
1801 South Prairie Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60616