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March 22, 2017

Honorable Salud Carbajal
212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 225-5632

RE: HR 354 (Black) – Defund Planned Parenthood – OPPOSE

Dear Congressman Carbajal,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express opposition to HR 354, addressing legislation to defund Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. SBWPC's mission is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values through political and social action and educational activities, and is one of the largest women's political committees in Santa Barbara County. We advocate for a diverse set of positions including reproductive rights and "the right to affordable, safe, legal abortion for women who choose to terminate their pregnancies" (<http://sbwpc.org/positions-new/>).

SBWPC supports "the right of every woman to exercise her options for preventing or ending a pregnancy," and therefore, we must oppose HR 354 that prohibits, for a one-year period, the availability of federal funds for any purpose to Planned Parenthood, its affiliates or clinics, unless they certify abortions will not be performed. We oppose "restrictions on a woman's reasons for terminating a pregnancy" and believe the government is interfering with a woman's right to reproductive choice with legislation that restricts abortion in all but three instances: rape, incest, or where a physical condition endangers a woman's life. We believe that a woman's decision concerning her reproductive health care is a fundamental right of all women, regardless of age and economic circumstances, and HR 354 obstructs this freedom and justice for women, and thus constitutes our opposition.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards HR 354 as a significant step in the wrong direction where reproductive rights and abortion are concerned. Therefore, SBWPC wishes to be recognized as a strong opponent to the Defund of Planned Parenthood bill and urges its defeat in the House of Representatives.

Thank you for reviewing our organization's position on this issue. Should you wish to communicate further with us, please email us at info@sbwpc.org or visit our website: www.sbwpc.org.

Sincerely,

Catherine Swysen, President SBWPC

cc: Representative Diane Black, Fax: (202) 225-6887
cc: Energy and Commerce Committee, Chair Greg Walden, Fax: (202) 225-5774
cc: Subcommittee on Health, Chair Michael Burgess, Fax: (202) 225-2919
cc: Planned Parenthood Santa Barbara, email: lora.goodman@ppcentralcoast.org