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30 Years of Feminism From Marching in the Streets To a Seat at the Table

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April 25th, 2018

Honorable Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0079
Email: Anthony.DiMartino@asm.ca.gov

RE: AB 931 (Weber) – **Criminal procedure: use of force by peace officers - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for AB 931 addressing the authorization for use of force by police officers. SBWPC's mission is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values through political and social action and educational activities. Our organization is one of the largest women's political committees in Santa Barbara County with over 400 members. We advocate for a diverse set of positions which include a commitment to promoting peace and security through non-violent conflict resolution and to ending racist practices within our society. We are also partners of the Santa Barbara County Coalition Against Gun Violence. (<http://sbwpc.org/positions/>).

We support AB 931, which amends the penal code to authorize deadly force by a police officer only when it is absolutely necessary to prevent imminent death or serious bodily injury to the officer or members of the public. It establishes that use of deadly force by an officer is only justifiable if there are no other reasonable alternatives (e.g. de-escalation tactics) and the officer is not responsible for the escalation of the conflict through gross negligence. This law makes clear the incredible responsibility of police officers in protecting and respecting every human life. Use of force by police disproportionately affects minority populations, especially young black men and women. SBWPC has taken a position against racism and violence and, as such, sees these amendments as a valuable addition to our state's laws.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards AB 931 as an important step forward in preventing unnecessary use of force by police officers and making our state a safer place for the groups most affected by this violence. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of the bill.**

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: Assemblymember Monique Limón, Email: jimmy.wittrock@asm.ca.gov
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Email: fernando.ramirez@asm.ca.gov
Coalition Against Gun Violence, Email: sbcagv@gmail.com