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Celebrating 29 Years of Empowering Women

March 21, 2017

Honorable Kamala Harris
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202) 224-2200

RE: S. 349 (Harris) - Access to Counsel Act: Immigrants – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Harris,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for S. 349, addressing the right to counsel for immigrants detained at Ports of Entry or any U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention Facility. 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 that include Immigration and "equal protection under the law for all people, regardless of immigration status, pertaining to civil and human rights" (<http://sbwpc.org/positions-new/>).

SBWPC believes in "a community free from harassment and intimidation based upon immigration status," and therefore, we support access to counsel to those detained at Ports of Entry or any CBP or ICE Detention Facility. We agree that if counsel cannot personally meet with detainees, CBP or ICE officials shall provide redress options where counsel may communicate remotely during the first hour or thereafter. SBWPC also supports S. 349 in the importance of detainees having access to an attorney before relinquishing legal status. Finally, because SBWPC endorses a feminist approach to the humane treatment of individuals, we support individuals be held for as short a time as possible, and have access to food, water, and toilets.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards S. 349 as an important step forward in equal rights for immigrants. Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on in support of S. 349.

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: Senator Diane Feinstein, Fax: 202-228-3954

Congressman Salud Carbajal, Fax 202-225-3601

CAUSE Santa Barbara: Frank Rodriguez & Maricela Morales frank@causenow.org; & maricela@causenow.org

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 03/22/2017 16:17
NAME :
FAX :
TEL :
SER. # : U62700A2N535735

DATE, TIME	03/22 16:16
FAX NO. /NAME	12022242200
DURATION	00:00:29
PAGE(S)	01
RESULT	OK
MODE	STANDARD ECM

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The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards S. 349 as an important step forward in equal rights

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 03/22/2017 16:18
NAME :
FAX :
TEL :
SER. # : U62700A2N535735

DATE, TIME	03/22 16:17
FAX NO./NAME	12022283954
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PAGE(S)	01
RESULT	OK
MODE	STANDARD ECM

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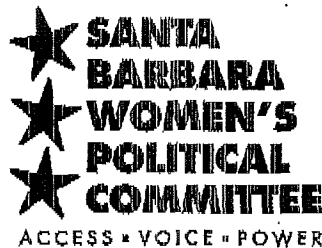
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