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Celebrating 29 Years of Empowering Women

April 21, 2017

Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814
ATTN: Lisa Gardiner, lisa.gardiner@sen.ca.gov

RE: SB-169 (Jackson, De León) Education: sex equity. – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for SB 169, introducing Title IX standards for sex equity in education into state law. 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. We advocate for a diverse set of positions which include our commitment to achieving educational equity (<http://sbwpc.org/positions-new>).

The SBWPC position paper on Educational Equity states that we support the "establishment and enforcement of school policies and procedures that effectively address and eliminate sexual violence and sexual harassment," as well as policies that provide "equal access to all school programs." SB 169 would amend California's Educational Code to codify protections from the federal Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 into state law, outlining a school's responsibility to take active steps in responding to sexual violence and discriminatory conduct. SB 169 would strengthen state-level enforcement of these sexual equity standards at educational institutions receiving state funding. It would also guarantee equity for California's students in the event that the new presidential administration moves to undermine or repeal federal enforcement of these standards. As such, the SBWPC supports SB 169 as a demonstration of California's commitment to ending sex discrimination in education.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee believes that SB 169 will help to protect students from sex discrimination and bring California closer to educational equity. 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 J. Swysen

Catherine Swysen
President SBWPC

CC: Assemblymember Monique Limón, Fax: (805) 564-1651
Senator Kevin De León, Fax: (916) 651-4924