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Celebrating 28 Years of Empowering Women

March 20, 2017

Senator Ricardo Lara, CA State Senate
ATTN: Megan Baier, Fax: (916) 651-4933 and
Renee Estoista, Email: renee.estoista@sen.ca.gov

RE: SB 31 (Lara) California Religious Freedom Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lara,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women’s Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for SB 31 that addresses the Trump campaign’s promise to establish a Muslim Registry. Thank you for introducing this legislation to protect the safety and well-being of all Californians by ensuring that state and local agencies and personnel do not participate in creating a registry, list, or database of individuals based on religious beliefs, practices, affiliations, national origin, or ethnicity.

Our organization is one of the largest women’s political committees in Santa Barbara County and is nonpartisan. SBWPC is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values through political and social action and educational activities. We would like to enter the public record as supporters of this bill since it aligns with our mission statement’s commitment, “to taking social action against discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, age, or ability.”

It is imperative that California takes the lead in standing for religious freedom and against any attempts by the federal government to collect personal information regarding the religion of any individual. We urge the California Senate to take a preemptive stand for our First Amendment right to freedom of religion and vote for SB 31.

Thank you for reviewing our position on this issue. Should you wish to communicate further with us, please email us at info@sbwpc.org.

Sincerely,
Catherine Swysen
Catherine Swysen, President SBWPC

CC: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Fax: (805) 965-0701
Assemblymember Monique Limon, Fax: (805) 564-1651