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Celebrating 29 Years of Empowering Women

June 21, 2017

Chairman Bob Goodlatte & Ranking Member John Conyers
U.S. House Judiciary Committee
Committee Hearing Room
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: HR 2598 (Carbajal) Gun Violence Restraining Order Act of 2017 - SUPPORT

Dear Congressmen Goodlatte and Conyers,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for HR 2598, which introduces new tools to prevent gun violence. 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 commitment to ending Crimes Against Women, such as domestic violence (<http://sbwpc.org/positions/>). Along this vein, SBWPC is also a partner with the Santa Barbara Coalition Against Gun Violence.

The SBWPC position paper on Crimes Against Women outlines our commitment to ending violent crimes against women, including domestic violence. Guns are very prevalent in domestic violence in the US. More than one in three women surveyed in California domestic violence shelters reported being threatened or harmed with a gun by their abusers.¹ In the last 25 years, more intimate partner homicides in the US have been committed with guns than with all other weapons combined.² The SBWPC fully supports "funding for prevention and intervention services", such as those described in HR 2598, that would provide women (and men) with an opportunity to temporarily have guns removed from the custody of dangerous and threatening family members.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards HR 2598 as an important step forward in lessening domestic violence against women. 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: Santa Barbara Coalition Against Gun Violence, Email: sbcagv@gmail.com
CC: Honorable Salud Carbajal, Email: Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov

¹Susan B. Sorenson and Douglas J. Wiebe, Weapons in the Lives of Battered Women, 94 Am. J. Pub. Health 1412, 1413 (2004).

²Professor April M. Zeoli, Letter to the Hon. Patrick J. Leahy and Charles Grassley, Jan. 28, 2013.