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Celebrating 29 Years of Empowering Women

June 16, 2017

Honorable Ted Lieu
415 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Email: Lieu.staff@mail.house.gov

RE: H.R. 2119 Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act of 2017 – SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Lieu,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for S.928 addressing commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy as an unfair and deceptive treatment. SBWPC's mission is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values through political social action and educational activities, and 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 including "adoption of all legislative efforts to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity/expression" (<http://sbwpc.org/positions>).

SBWPC supports the national community of professionals cited in H.R. 2119 in education, social work, health, mental health, and counseling who have determined there is no scientifically valid evidence that conversion therapy is effective in changing an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. Because SBWPC endorses a feminist approach to the humane treatment of all genders, we also concur with H.R. 2119 that not only is conversion therapy ineffective but it is also harmful to an individual's mental and physical health contributing to depression, self-harm, low self-esteem, family rejection, and suicide.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards H.R. 2119 as an important step forward in preventing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and gender nonconforming people from being defrauded by persons seeking to profit by offering this harmful and ineffective therapy. SBWPC is dedicated to the inclusiveness of LGBTQ rights as a fundamental component of our advocacy, and therefore, wishes to sign on as a supporter of H.R. 2119.

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: Congressman Salud Carbajal, email: nancy.juarez@mail.house.gov
cc: Santa Barbara Transgender Advocacy Network, email: info@sbtan.org
cc: colette@pacificpridefoundation.org