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*30 Years of Feminism
From Marching in the Streets To a Seat at the Table*

May 26, 2018

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Room 2114
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080
Email: denise.tugade@asm.ca.gov

RE: AB 2079 (Gonzalez Fletcher) Janitorial workers: sexual violence and harassment prevention training - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for AB 2079, improving the sexual violence and harassment training standards for janitorial workers. 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 that include the support of "[i]nitiatives to ensure safe, healthy, and secure working conditions" and "[t]raining of all employees and effective enforcement against sexual harassment at work" (<http://sbwpc.org/positions/>).

We understand that the conditions in which janitors work put them at higher risk of sexual violence and harassment, with many janitorial workers working alone and isolated in such a way that makes them more vulnerable and less able to seek help. Furthermore, current education on the resources and protocols available to address these issues is often subpar, contributing to a culture where harassment is left to continue unchallenged. To that end, it is essential that training be held to a more rigorous standard.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards AB 2079 as an important step towards ending the culture of sexual harassment and violence in the workplace. 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: Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson Fax: (916) 651-4919
Assemblymember Monique Limón, Email: ilan.zur@asm.ca.gov