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May 22, 2018

Honorable David Chiu
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017
Email: riana.king@asm.ca.gov

RE: AB 3118 (Chiu) Sexual assault: investigations -SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Chiu,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for AB 3118 requiring that an audit of sexual assault evidence kits be conducted by every law enforcement agency, crime lab, medical facility, or any other facility that possesses them. SBWPC advocates for a diverse set of positions including Crimes Against Women (<http://sbwpc.org/positions/>). Our 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.

SBWPC is aware that well over 10,000 rape kits have been collected over the last few years but never tested. In fact, as Senator Chiu has stated, "some kits are analyzed but the vast majority are not. Currently, there is no comprehensive data on the number of rape kits that have been collected and the reasons why kits were not tested." (Assembly Committee on Public Safety analysis, Apr. 10, 2018) Without question, this is unacceptable.

SBWPC understands that this statute is not retroactive, but clearly it is imperative to remedy this going forward. Furthermore, California cannot address the problem effectively in the absence of audits of sexual assault kits, which the state has never done. This means that the extent of the problem is not specifically known, thus severely hampering the state's ability to address it.

For all of the above reasons, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of AB 3118.

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: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Fax: (916) 651-4949
Assembly Member Monique Limón, Email: ilan.zur@asm.ca.gov