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

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April 24, 2018

Honorable Monique Limón
Room 4005
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 92249-0037
Email: jimmy.wittrock@asm.ca.gov

RE: AB 2774 (Limón) Municipal animal shelters: adoption application: crimes - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Limón,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for AB 2774 addressing the ability of animal shelters to determine whether a potential adopter has a history of animal abuse. 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 the understanding that "crimes against women have at their root an intersection between sexism and other forms of oppression" (<http://sbwpc.org/positions/>).

We are aware that those who commit these crimes against women are often also perpetrators of violence against animals. Indeed, the FBI keeps track of animal cruelty data due to its predicative nature with respect to acts of partner violence, child abuse, and other violent crimes (<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/-tracking-animal-cruelty>). Additionally, SBWPC espouses the feminist ideal of humanely treating all living creatures. Therefore, we are fully in favor of expanding the ability of animal shelters to prevent further animal cruelty by enabling them to ask whether a prospective adopter has committed violence towards animals, thereby allowing shelters to enforce existing laws preventing animal abusers having access to pets.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards AB 2774 as an important step forward in eliminating violence towards animals, a behavior predictive of violence toward humans. **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 Email: nora.lynn@sen.ca.gov