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30 Years of Feminism

From Marching in the Streets To a Seat at the Table

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June 15, 2018

Honorable Blanca Rubio
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0048
Email: krystal.moreno@asm.ca.gov

RE: AB 2526 (Rubio) Temporary emergency gun violence restraining orders - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Rubio,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for AB 2526, which enhances and clarifies the use of Emergency Protective Orders (EPOs) 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/>). In addition, SBWPC is 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, in which guns are very prevalent 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 We understand that the current law regarding EPOs has been confusing for law enforcement because, while gun violence EPOs are typically issued orally in the field as officers deal with immediate and present danger, the default procedure is that written petition is required unless time and circumstances do not permit. Clearly, there is a need to place in statute that oral issuance of the EPO is the default, allowing for the written process if time and circumstances permit.

The SBWPC supports assisting peace officers with this clarification so that guns may be more easily removed from the custody of dangerous and threatening individuals. We regard AB 2526 as an important step forward clarifying how an EPO may be granted and therefore helping to prevent gun violence. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of AB 2526.**

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: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Fax: (916) 651-4019

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