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

May 3, 2018

Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: nora.lynn@sen.ca.gov

RE: SB 1300 (Jackson) – Unlawful employment practices: discrimination and harassment - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for SB 1300 addressing sexual harassment in the workplace and making a series of changes in the Fair Employment and Housing Act. SBWPC's mission is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values 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, which include legislation that addresses crimes against women and that serves to empower and protect women in the workplace. (<http://sbwpc.org/positions/>).

We are aware that the Judiciary Committee and other Legislative bodies have gone to significant lengths to identify legal reforms that would help to bring about an end to the scourge of harassment and that numerous legal and policy shortcomings have been revealed. They include tolerance for legal tactics that silence victims; poor sexual harassment prevention training requirements; failure of some judges to account for the power of sexual harassment to undermine victims' civil rights; and weak standards for liability that force victims to endure unwelcome behavior at a severe or pervasive level before they are entitled to any remedy. (Senate Judiciary analysis, 4/4/18)

Sexual harassment remains a serious and life-altering issue which necessitates comprehensive changes in the law. We support SB 1300 in establishing a twenty-first century legal standard that the courts can evenly apply to sexual harassment cases, in closing legal loopholes that force victim silence, and in requiring effective sexual harassment training as well as increased employer accountability.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards SB 1300 as an important step forward in addressing the systemic abuse of women in the workplace. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of SB 1300.**

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: Assemblymember Monique Limon Email: ilan.zur@asm.ca.gov