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## *31 Years of Feminism From Marching in the Streets to a Seat at the Table*

March 21, 2019

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Honorable Lorena Gonzalez  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080  
*Email: samantha.gallegos@asm.ca.gov*

### **RE: AB 218 (Gonzalez) Damages: childhood sexual assault: statute of limitations -SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for AB 218 addressing the recovery of damages and the extension of the civil statute of limitations as it relates to childhood sexual assault. We advocate for a diverse set of positions which include Crimes Against Women (<http://sbwpc.org/positions/>). 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 well over 300 members.

It is well known in our society that childhood sexual abuse can have lifelong impacts, and that it can take decades for survivors to come forward to seek justice. SBWPC supports extending the civil statute of limitations by 14 years for cases of childhood sexual assault, as it positively impacts the rights of survivors and assists in creating a more survivor-responsive criminal justice system. Additionally, AB 218 assists survivors in holding any additional parties or institutions who willingly turned a blind eye or actively participated in a cover up of childhood sexual assault accountable for their actions.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards AB 218 as an important step forward in protecting and expanding the rights of childhood sexual assault victims so that they may seek justice when the time is right for them. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of AB 218.**

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](mailto:info@sbwpc.org) or visit our website: [www.sbwpc.org](http://www.sbwpc.org)

Sincerely,

Luz Reyes-Martin, President SBWPC

CC: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, *Email: marly.young@sen.ca.gov*  
Assemblymember Monique Limón, *Email: Mariana.Sabeniano@asm.ca.gov*