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

March 27, 2019

Honorable Scott Wiener
State Capitol, Room 5100, Sacramento, CA 95814-4500
Email: Brayden.Borcherding@sen.ca.gov

RE: SB 233 (Wiener) – Immunity from Arrest - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for SB 233 addressing immunity from arrest for sex workers. 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. We advocate for a diverse set of positions which include instituting workplace protections for women and ending crimes against women <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>.

We are aware that SB 233 seeks to add protections for sex workers by prohibiting arrest for some sex work violations when reporting violent crimes and by prohibiting condom possession as evidence of an act of prostitution. As feminists, we support this bill, which recognizes that sex workers, most of whom are women, are valued members of our community who deserve equal protection under the law. This bill seeks to remove some of those inequities and allow sex workers to safely report violent crimes perpetrated against them.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards SB 233 as an important step forward in recognizing the need to encourage and to protect sex workers who wish to report criminal violence against them. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a support of this 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,

Luz Reyes-Martin, President SBWPC

CC: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Email: lisa.gardiner@sen.ca.gov
Assemblymember Monique Limón, Email: Israel.landa@asm.ca.gov