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

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April 1, 2019

Honorable Jimmy Panetta
212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Email: Matthew.Manning@mail.house.gov

RE: HR 676 NATO Support Act - SUPPORT

Dear Representative Panetta,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for HR 676 which reiterates the support of the Congress of the United States for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. 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 International Peace and Security <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>.

We support the policy of the United States remaining a member in good standing of NATO and agree that any effort to withdraw the United States from NATO must be rejected. Women are disproportionately affected by war and political instability. The majority of refugees are women and children. Additionally, rape and sexual slavery are routinely used as tools of war. War leads to increased rates of domestic violence, child abuse, murder and suicide. NATO has served as a pillar of international peace and stability with a mission to promote a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace. The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards NATO as a critical organization in protecting the health and safety of women and sees HR 676 as an important step in ensuring the continued support of the United States.

SBWPC therefore wishes to sign on as a supporter of HR 676.

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: Representative Salud Carbajal; annie.yea@mail.house.gov