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

April 29, 2019

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Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 368 – Global Health, Empowerment and Rights (HER) Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Shaheen:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for S. 368, the Global Health, Empowerment and Rights (HER) Act. SBWPC's mission is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values through political and social action and educational activities. Our organization is the largest women's political committee in Santa Barbara County with well over 300 members. We advocate for a diverse position which include reproductive rights and a feminist approach to global engagement and international relations. <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>.

The current Global Gag Rule, denying U.S. foreign aid to any NGO which in any way works to provide, refer to, counsel or advocate for access to safe abortion, is unacceptable. We believe that respect for the fundamental rights of women is crucial to the security of every nation including our own. The freedom to decide whether and when to become a parent is a private and personal matter. It is a fundamental right of all women, regardless of age and economic circumstances, here and abroad. Furthermore, everyone has a right to have access to unbiased, scientifically accurate medical advice and services to make informed decisions. It is especially important for women who live in countries where rape is used as a weapon of war.

Therefore, the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee fully support the repeal of the Global Gag Rule once and for all with the passage of the HER Act. **We wish to sign on as a supporter of S. 368.**

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 Martín
President SBWPC

Cc: Senator Kamala Harris, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
Julie Mickelberry, Planned Parenthood, julie.mickelberry@ppcentralcoast.org
Rep. Nita M. Lowey, email: dana.acton@mail.house.gov

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