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

August 21, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 493 (Jackson) – Gender Equity in Education Act - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for SB 493 addressing the implementation of Title IX standards for sex equity in education at the state level. 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 "that all individuals have the right to a quality public education" <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>.

Since its passing in 1972, Title IX has been instrumental in safeguarding against sex discrimination and sexual harassment in educational institutions. With these protections increasingly undermined by the current presidential administration, it is imperative that they be codified at the state level through bills such as SB 493. This bill outlines necessary procedures that schools must follow in their response to sexual violence and harassment, ensuring that survivors are treated with respect and that their access to education is not threatened as a consequence of their reporting.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee strongly supports SB 493 as part of our mission to establish policies that "effectively address and eliminate sexual violence and sexual harassment." (SBWPC position paper on Educational Equity, <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>)

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: Jessica Stender, Equal Rights Advocates *Email:* jstender@equalrights.org
Nora Lynn, Office of Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson *Email:* nora.lynn@sen.ca.gov