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

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February 20, 2020

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez  
1350 Front St.  
San Diego, CA 92101  
*Email:* jazmin.marroquin@asm.ca.gov

**RE: AB 1909 Healing arts licensees: virginity examinations or tests - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for bill AB 1909 addressing the need to ban the sexist and medically unnecessary practice of pelvic examinations for the purpose of determining virginity. 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 approximately 300 members. We advocate for a diverse set of positions which include a woman's right to make decisions concerning her reproductive choices as well as a commitment to ending crimes against women.

We support the prohibition of licensed medical practitioners from performing or supervising hymen examinations, aka "virginity tests". This archaic and controversial practice is traumatizing, extremely invasive and amounts to a criminal assault. Those individuals that perform or supervise these "tests" should be subject to misconduct penalties.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards AB 1909 as an important step forward in ensuring a woman's right to make her own decisions about her health and in eliminating archaic and harmful practices that should be considered criminal assaults. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of AB 1909.**

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: Asm. Monique Limón, email: [Sulema.Landa@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Sulema.Landa@asm.ca.gov)  
CC: Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, Fax: (916) 651-4919