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

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June 18, 2020

The Honorable Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 942849-0054  
*Email:* Balkis.Awan@asm.ca.gov

### RE: AB 1950 Probation: Length of Terms - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Kamlager-Dove,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for AB 1950 which would shorten the terms of probation, increase the goal of rehabilitation and reduce recidivism. 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. Our vision is "to achieve a society based on the feminist values of social, political, racial and economic gender equality."

We support legislation that will reduce recidivism, by reducing the length of probation, with the understanding that longer terms of probation are more harmful than helpful for both individuals and families. Current law imposes various fees that must be paid by the individual on probation, creating a large and often unaffordable debt burden. In addition, while on probation, an individual is very restricted in finding employment, seeking a raise if employed, and in seeking to further their education.

According to the Author:

"California's adult supervised probation population is around 548,000 – the largest of any state in the nation, more than twice the size of the state's prison population, almost four times larger than its jail population and about six times larger than its parole population. A 2018 Justice Center of the Council of State Governments study found that a large portion of people violate probation and end up incarcerated as a result. The study revealed that 20% of prison admissions in California are the result of supervised probation violations, accounting for the estimated \$2 billion spent annually by the state to incarcerate people for supervision violations. Eight percent of people incarcerated in a California prison are behind bars for supervised probation violations. Most violations are 'technical' and minor in nature, such as missing a drug rehab appointment or socializing with a friend who has a criminal record.

"Probation - originally meant to reduce recidivism - has instead become a pipeline for re-entry into the carceral system. Research shows that probation services, such as mental healthcare and addiction treatment, are most effective during the first 18 months of supervision. Research also indicates that providing increased supervision and services earlier reduces an individual's likelihood to recidivate. A shorter term of probation, allowing for an increased emphasis on services, should lead to improved outcomes for both people on misdemeanor and felony probation while reducing the number of people on probation returning to incarceration." (Assembly Floor analysis, 6/10/20)



This bill would restrict the period of probation to no longer than one year for misdemeanors and two years for felonies. We understand that the longer someone stays on probation the more expensive and ineffective it becomes.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards AB1950 as an important step forward in reducing recidivism rates and to position probation as a pathway to success while saving taxpayers money.

**Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of AB 1950.**

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: The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson, email: [Lisa.Gardiner@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Lisa.Gardiner@sen.ca.gov)

CC: The Honorable Monique Limón, email: [Israel.Landa@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Israel.Landa@asm.ca.gov)

CC: California Legislature Position Letter Portal: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>