

BOARD OFFICERS

Luz Reyes-Martin
President
Andria Martinez Cohen
VP Policy
Amanda Hsiung
VP Organization
Kate Parker
Secretary
Catherine Swysen
CFO



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

BOARD MEMBERS

Vicki Allen
ej Borah
Anna Everett
Pamela Flynt Tambo
Elsa Granados
Charlotte Gullap-Moore
Lisa Guravitz
Alejandra Gutierrez
Hathor Hammett
Wendy Jackson
Karena Jew
Teri Jory
Sandy Kievman
Stacy Little
Paula Lopez
Meredith Murr
Christina Pizarro
Jennifer Smith
Catherine Swysen

PAST PRESIDENTS

Gayle Binion
Barbara Lindemann
Lois Phillips
Carole Piceno
Susan Rose
Hannah-Beth Jackson
Margaret Connell
Helene Schneider
Janet Barron
Alissa Hummer
Sharon Hoshida
Lisa Guravitz
Mary O'Gorman
Beth Schneider
Jane Gray
Carol Keator
Catherine Swysen

February 2, 2021

Assemblymember Ash Kalra
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814
Email: Ryan.Guillen@asm.ca.gov

RE: AB 256 (Kalra) Criminal Procedure: discrimination - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Kalra,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for AB 256 which addresses racial bias in California courts. With approximately 300 members, we are one of the largest women's political committees in Santa Barbara County. As part of our mission to further feminist values through political and social action we advocate for a diverse set of positions such as anti-racism. Furthermore, promoting equal opportunity in all spheres of society (including in our justice system) is one of our organization's core values: <https://sbwpc.org/positions>.

We understand that AB 256 represents a retroactive expansion of the existing new law which you championed in 2020 (and which was supported by SBWPC), empowering criminal defendants to object to punishment if they are able to show that anyone involved in their case demonstrated bias during the process.

Our organization believes that giving Californians with past criminal convictions this new avenue to challenge their sentences based on tangible evidence of discrimination is an important step forward in addressing systemic racism in our criminal justice system. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of AB 256.**

Please email info@sbwpc.org or visit our website: www.sbwpc.org if you need to reach us.

Sincerely,

Luz Reyes-Martin,
President SBWPC

CC: Asm Steve Bennett Legislative Director: Alexander.Soto@asm.ca.gov

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