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

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April 12, 2021.

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi and the Honorable David Chiu
State Capital, Sacramento, CA
Email: carson.richards@asm.ca.gov

Re: AB 557: (Muratsuchi and Chiu) Hate crimes: hotline. SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymembers Muratsuchi and Chiu:

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee, representing approximately 300 members, agrees that "hate crimes are crimes against an entire community, not just an individual victim." Therefore, SBWPC deplores the current rise in hate crimes to a level over 2800 hate incidents reported since the COVID-19 pandemic began (StopAAPIHate.com), not to mention the over half of crimes that are not reported (Department of Justice estimate).

Your bill, AB557, requiring the California Department of Justice to establish a toll-free hotline in addition to an online reporting system for hate crimes will allow victims and witnesses to report a hate incident against any group in a safe, anonymous manner, particularly those who may face language or cultural barriers or are undocumented. This reflects the SBWPC Mission statement to "take social action against discrimination based on gender, race and ethnicity" as well as our position on Anti-Racism "to identify, confront and eliminate racism in all its forms -systemic, individual, interpersonal, institutional and structural – to achieve racial equity and justice."
<https://sbwpc.org/positions/>

Therefore, the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee wishes to sign on as a supporter of AB 557.

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

Luz Reyes-Martín
President, SBWPC

Cc: Assemblymember Steve Bennett, email: Alexander.Soto@asm.ca.gov
cc: California Legislature Position Letter Portal: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>