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

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March 22, 2021

Honorable Tom Emmer
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Email: Landon.Zinda@mail.house.gov

RE: HR 649 (Emmer) – The Abby Honold Act – SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Emmer:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for H.R. 600 addressing the incorporation of a trauma-informed approach into the initial response to, and investigation of, crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. 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 that include training for women and men in professions such as law enforcement, medicine, and education in creating a more sensitive and survivor-responsive criminal justice system (<https://sbwpc.org/positions/>).

We support the Abby Honold Act's grant funding for demonstration sites where evidence-based or promising policies and practices are incorporated. Such policies and practices seek to prevent re-traumatization of victims, improve communication between victims and law enforcement officers, increase collaboration among stakeholders, and evaluate the effectiveness of the training process and content.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards H.R. 600 as an important step forward in training individuals to use evidence-based, trauma-informed techniques and knowledge of crime victims' rights in order to improve the response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of HR 649.**

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: Honorable Salud Carbajal, email: Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov