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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 Mazie Hirono  
109 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
Email: Legislative Director [jed\\_dercole@Hirono.senate.gov](mailto:jed_dercole@Hirono.senate.gov)

**RE: S 937 (Hirono) COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hirono,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for S 937 addressing the rise of hate crimes and violence targeted at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs). SBWPC's mission is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values. 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 Anti -Racism and "...basic human rights for all including ...safety." <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>.

We support directing the DOJ to: "...designate a DOJ employee to assist with expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, reported to federal, state, and/or local law enforcement; provide guidance for state and local law enforcement agencies to establish online reporting of hate crimes or incidents, and to have online reporting available in multiple languages; expand culturally competent and linguistically appropriate public education campaigns, and collection of data and public reporting of hate crimes; and Issue guidance detailing best practices to mitigate racially discriminatory language in describing the COVID-19 pandemic, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force and community-based organizations." (Hirono press release, March 11, 2021)

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards S 937 as an important step forward in curtailing racism of any kind, especially related to COVID-19 at this time in our history, and in promoting safety for all. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of S 937.**

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-Martín  
President SBWPC

CC: Senators Diane Feinstein, [rachel\\_bombach@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:rachel_bombach@feinstein.senate.gov)  
CC: Alex Padilla, [Joshua\\_Esquivel@Padilla.senate.gov](mailto:Joshua_Esquivel@Padilla.senate.gov)