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

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April 26, 2021

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Public Safety Committee
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0016
Attn: Sarah Goodman (Sarah.goodman@asm.ca.gov)

RE: AB 1356 – Protecting Reproductive Health Clinic Patients -- SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC) to urge the Public Safety Committee to pass AB 1356 which will protect patients and providers at reproductive health centers by modernizing the California Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE Act), as well as updating online privacy laws, and peace officer trainings.

The SBWPC has developed a number of feminist position statements that are inclusive, intersectional and progressive and that recognize the disproportionate impact of all forms of oppression on Black women, Indigenous women and Women of Color. Among these positions is a commitment to reproductive justice as a fundamental right of all people to have access to safe, accessible, affordable abortion and contraception. Reproductive justice requires that all people receive advice, education, and services so that they can make informed decisions free of coercion.

Violence and harassment at abortion providers have increased with the rise of far-right extremism and the internet. AB 1356 increases legal protections for providers and patients commensurate with the risks they face. It pre-empts escalations in extremist violence, and protects the rights of vulnerable individuals seeking basic, necessary healthcare. AB 1356 will increase penalties in the CA FACE Act to ensure offenders are held accountable for the fear and harassment they inflict. This bill will also expand online privacy laws to keep reproductive health care workers and patients safe from online harassment and prevent the sharing of personal information.

The SBWPC stands with the Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California and NARAL in urging passage of AB 1356 and wishes to sign on as a supporter of the bill.

Yours truly,



Luz Reyes-Martin
President, SBWPC

Cc: Asm. Steve Bennet, email: Hannah.Sullivan@asm.ca.gov
Cc: Jenna Tosh, Planned Parenthood Central Coast, Email: Jenna.Tosh@ppcentralcoast.org
Cc: Gloria Soto, Planned Parenthood Central Coast, Email: Gloria.Soto@ppcentralcoast.org

Also submitted through CA Legislature Position Letter Portal:
<https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>