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

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February 25, 2021

Honorable Mazie Hirono
2233 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20151
Email: Legislative Director: jed_dercole@Hirono.senate.gov

RE: S 1611 (Hirono) – I Am Vanessa Guillén Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hirono:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to thank you for re-introducing the bi-partisan I Am Vanessa Guillén Act, which seeks to reform the way the U.S. military handles sexual assault and harassment cases.

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, including the demand for legislation that addresses crimes against women: <https://sbwpc.org/positions>.

This bill addresses several critical reforms, such as moving sexual harassment prosecution decisions outside the chain of command, to an Office of the Chief Prosecutor within each military service and creating a confidential reporting process integrated with the Department of Defense's Catch a Serial Offender Database. It will also make sexual harassment a punishable crime under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. These changes will save lives by letting soldiers know that they are safe and they can come forward.

S 1611 aligns perfectly with our organization's core values and we wish to sign on as a strong supporter as it makes its way through the 117th Congress.

Please email info@sbwpc.org if you need to reach us.

Sincerely,

Luz Reyes-Martin,
President SBWPC

CC: Sen. Diane Feinstein, Email: rachel_bombach@feinstein.senate.gov
CC: Sen. Alex Padilla, Email: Joshua_Esquivel@Padilla.senate.gov