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

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December 11, 2021
The Honorable Bobby Rush
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Email: Legislative Director Lauren.Citron@mail.house.gov

RE: HR 2489 Martha Wright Prison Phone Justice Act - SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Rush,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for H.R. 2489, the Martha Wright Prison Phone Justice Act addressing the impact of predatory high costs of telephone calls for families of the incarcerated. 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. We advocate for a diverse set of positions and for basic human rights for all, which includes protecting strong family connections (see <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>).

The ability of the incarcerated and their families to stay connected with each other is extremely curtailed due to unfairly high predatory prices charged for phone calls. This is especially heinous now, when many jails and prisons have decreased or eliminated in-person visits altogether.

SBWPC supports H.R. 2489 because we are aware that maintaining telephone contact places an unfair and harmful financial burden on family members, typically the women who are the partners of the incarcerated and who are also the financial supporters of their children. H.R. 2489 would restore the FCC's authority to stop the predatory behaviors of the telephone companies serving prisons by reducing the cost of calls and thereby facilitating consistent communication for families.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards H.R. 2489 as an important step forward in keeping families connected. It will provide a crucial contribution to both those "on the inside" as part of their rehabilitation and preparation for re-entering society, and also to their partners and children "on the outside" struggling to support an emotionally and physically healthy family. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of bill H.R. 2489**

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