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

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February 21, 2022

Senator Tom Umberg
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6730
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: Aria.Ghafari@sen.ca.gov

Re: AB 587 (Gabriel) Social Media Transparency - Support

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for AB 587 addressing the role of social media companies in moderating our public discourse. SBWPC's mission is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values. As one of the largest women's political committees in Santa Barbara County, we advocate for a diverse set of positions which include a commitment to freedom from violence and to the creation of corporate policies regarding online hate, disinformation, extremism, harassment, and foreign interference -- <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>.

Lack of accountability for social media platforms severely affects a wide range of marginalized communities—including but not limited to people of color, women, the LGBTQ+ community, Jewish and Muslim communities, and people seeking reproductive justice—who are disproportionately targeted by online hate and adversely affected by misinformation on social media. Efforts by social media companies to self-police have been criticized as opaque, arbitrary, biased, and inadequate. Additional transparency is needed to allow consumers and the public to make informed choices about these platforms and so that researchers, civil society leaders, community advocates, and policymakers can determine the best means to address this growing threat. The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards AB 587 as an important step forward in achieving these goals. **Should you wish to communicate further with us, please email us at info@sbwpc.org or visit our website: www.sbwpc.org**

Sincerely,

Catherine Swysen
President, SBWPC

CC: Hon. Jesse Gabriel (assemblymember.gabriel@assembly.ca.gov; Dana.Alpert@asm.ca.gov);
Hon. Steve Bennett (assemblymember.bennett@assembly.ca.gov; Alexander.Soto@asm.ca.gov);
Hon. Monique Limón (senator.limon@senate.ca.gov; Jimmy.Wittrock@sen.ca.gov);

CA Legislature Position Letter Portal: <https://calegislature.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>