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

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February 16, 2022

The Honorable Jackie Speier  
2465 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Email: [Yana.Mayayeva@mail.house.gov](mailto:Yana.Mayayeva@mail.house.gov)

**RE: H.Res.196 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of taking a feminist approach to all aspects of foreign policy, including foreign assistance and humanitarian response, trade, diplomacy, defense, immigration, funding, and accountability mechanisms. - SUPPORT**

Dear Congressman Speier,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for H.Res. 196 addressing a feminist approach to foreign policy. 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 with hundreds of members, we advocate for a diverse set of positions including the one quoted below. (see <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>)

### International Peace and Security

Our world calls for a feminist approach to global engagement and international relations in order to achieve worldwide peace and security. Women are disproportionately affected by war and political instability, which leads to increased rates of intimate partner violence, child abuse, murder, and suicide. Additionally, rape and sexual slavery are routinely used as tools of war. The majority of refugees are women and children.

Respect for the fundamental rights of women and support for their economic and social equality are crucial to the security of every nation.

We support the resolution of conflicts through diplomacy over military action. We believe that true security will be achieved by the development of just social systems and not by unrestrained military spending, which perpetuates the military-industrial complex.

Clearly The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee is in complete agreement with H.Res. 196 and we regard it as an important step toward raising awareness of this approach to global relations.

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,

Catherine Swysen  
President SBWPC

CC: Congressman Salud Carbajal, email: [Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov](mailto:Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov)