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

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February 28, 2022

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

RE: HR 2709 (Speier) Access to Contraception for Servicemembers & Dependents Act of 2021-SUPPORT

Dear Congresswoman Speier,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for HR 2709 addressing the Department of Defense's (DOD) programs regarding contraceptive care and family planning services. 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 which include Healthcare and Reproductive Justice <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>.

We support access to family planning care and the prohibition of cost-sharing (co-pays) with respect to TRICARE beneficiaries in relation to contraceptive care (including with respect to insertion, removal, and follow-up), any sterilization procedure, or any related patient education or counseling service. We support a requirement that the DOD provide information on all methods of emergency contraception and care to sexual assault survivors at its medical treatment facilities., and, upon request by a sexual assault survivor, the provision of emergency contraception or a prescription for same. We also support that the DOD establish a uniform standard curriculum for education programs on family planning for all members of the Armed Forces which must be provided during the first year of service and at other appropriate times, as determined by each military department.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards HR 2709 as an important step forward in reproductive healthcare. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of HR 2709.**

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,

Catherine Swysen
President SBWPC

CC: Hon. Salud Carbajal, email: Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov