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

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April 11, 2022

The Honorable Marc Berman  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0024  
Email: [Allie.Umemoto@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Allie.Umemoto@asm.ca.gov)

**RE: AB 2636 (Berman) Refugee Health Care Training and Workforce Grant - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Berman,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for AB 2636 addressing establishment of a grant program to support refugees, asylees, and individuals with Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) in accessing and completing health care training programs to obtain employment in health care professions. 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 Immigration.

<https://sbwpc.org/positions/>

We are aware that given global events, California expects to receive an increasing number of immigrants and that California is the leading state of residence for individuals granted asylum. Furthermore, California anticipates a shortage of healthcare workers, and we are aware that refugees, asylees, and SIVs have a strong record of success in this area. Healthcare is the second most common field of employment for refugees across the U.S., clearly making it very beneficial to establish a grant program (administered by the California Workforce Development Board) to award competitive grants to community-based organizations that resettle or provide services to refugees, asylees, or SIVs. These services can include application support to training programs, costs of licensing fees and certification fees, costs of classes or training programs, ESL or vocational ESL support, post-program job search support, and more.

SBWPC regards AB 2636 as an important step in both providing assistance to immigrants and to bolster our healthcare workforce. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of AB 2636.**

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

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CC: Asm. Steve Bennett, email: [Alexander.Soto@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Alexander.Soto@asm.ca.gov)

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