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

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February 1, 2023

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
1021 O Street, Suite 8210,
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0050
Email: Samantha.Elizalde@asm.ca.gov

RE: B 230 (Reyes) Girl Scouts Period Equity Act – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Reyes:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing in support of your bill, AB 230 – Girl Scouts Period Equity Act. AB 230 will expand the Menstrual Equity Act of 2021 to public schools serving third through fifth grades by adequately stocking restrooms with menstrual products.

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 Women in the Workplace.
<https://sbwpc.org/positions/>.

The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services data shows a trend toward "early bloomers" experiencing the onset of menstruation at ages 10 and 11, according to a 2020 report. Currently there are over 2,000 schools in California that serve only a 3rd through 5th grade population yet are not required to have free and accessible menstrual products stocked in restrooms. As the California Legislature works to further address gender inequities, access to period products to minors, especially those in poverty and struggling to pay for basic necessities including menstrual products, must be included in these efforts.

AB 230 – Girl Scouts Period Equity Act – will help to do this. It amends existing statute to include students who were not previously under AB 367 (C. Garcia, 2021).

The simple act of ensuring access to period products respects an essential bodily function of girls, and will help reduce the legacy of shame associated with menstruation.

It is for these reasons, the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee is pleased to support AB 230.

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,

Paula Lopez Ochoa

Paula Lopez Ochoa
President SBWPC

CC: Asm. Gregg Hart, Chief of Staff jimmy.wittrock@asm.ca.gov

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