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

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Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Chair, Committee on Labor and Employment  
1020 N Street, Room 155, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Email: [Legislative](mailto:Legislative) Director [Ryan.Guillen@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Ryan.Guillen@asm.ca.gov)

**Re: AB 380 (Arambula) Labor Trafficking Prevention Act - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Kalra,

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee wishes to express our support for Assembly Bill 380 (Arambula), the California Labor Trafficking Prevention Act. 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 Human Rights and Women in the Workplace <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>. We are proud of our history of supporting bills that would help to put an end to labor trafficking abuses.

We understand that this bill would protect California's most vulnerable workers from being taken advantage of by unscrupulous individuals and businesses who force them to work under duress with little to no pay. We support the creation of a Labor Trafficking Unit and providing the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) with statutory authority to investigate and prosecute claims of human labor trafficking.

There are many different situations that trafficked workers face—threats from employers relating to documentation status, harm to their families, and loss of wages—that prevent victims from trying to escape and seek services available. Now is the time for action as we are seeing numerous cases of labor trafficking coming to light in California across a wide range of industries, such as restaurant, agricultural (including cannabis), and childcare/ elder care industries.

We are aware that the [September 2020 report](#) published by the Little Hoover Commission concluded that the state's efforts to prevent labor trafficking are fragmented. Currently, no state agencies are tasked with preventing labor trafficking abuses or coordinating with other agencies to stop trafficking before it starts. *A targeted approach is long overdue.* By establishing a Labor Trafficking Unit within DIR, California can take steps that are necessary to prevent, investigate, and coordinate state efforts to end the abuses of trafficked workers.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards AB 380 as an important step forward in the issues cited here. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of AB 380.**

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,

*Paula Lopez Ochoa*  
President SBWPC

cc: Asm. Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Email: [Stephanie.Jimenez@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Jimenez@asm.ca.gov)  
cc: Asm. Gregg Hart, Email: [Lenh.Voong@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Lenh.Voong@asm.ca.gov)  
cc: CA Legislature Position Letter Portal: <https://calegislature.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

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