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## SANTA BARBARA WOMEN'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE ACCESS - VOICE - POWER

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

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May 15, 2023

The Honorable Senator Tammy Duckworth 524 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Email: benjamin rhodeside@duckworth.senate.gov

RE: S. 1031 - EACH Act - SUPPORT
Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance

Dear Senator Duckworth,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for S 1031 the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance Act of 2023, or the "EACH Act" that would reduce economic barriers to abortion access by ending the Hydel Amendment and related bans on abortion coverage that make abortion care unaffordable for so many Americans employed in the federal government or those enrolled in federal health insurance programs, and families who receive health care through a government prover such as the Indian Health Service.

Our organization's strong support for the EACH Act is consistent with SBWPC's overall mission of furthering gender equality and advocating for an equitable society. As one of the largest women's political committees in Santa Barbara County with hundreds of members, SBWPC advocates for a diverse set of positions which include access for all to affordable abortion care. See our position statements on issues including choice and reproductive rights at <a href="https://sbwpc.org/positions/">https://sbwpc.org/positions/</a>.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards the EACH Act as a long-overdue step toward making medical care more equitable and affordable for all Americans, especially Medicaid recipients who experience elevated rates of poverty, unemployment, and gaps in private insurance coverage, making them more likely to experience the hardships caused by the Hyde Amendment. The majority (55%) of reproductive-age women enrolled in Medicaid live in states that withhold or severely restrict insurance coverage for abortion services. Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of S.1031.

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: <a href="www.sbwpc.org">www.sbwpc.org</a>

Sincerely,

Paula Lopez Ochoa
Paula Lopez Ochoa
President SBWPC

CC: Honorable Representative Barbara Lee, re HR 561 EACH Act