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

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January 10, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Legislative Women's Caucus
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 59 (Skinner) Equity, Period – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Skinner:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing in support of your bill, SB 59 – Equity, Period. SB 59 will ensure equitable access to period products across California by requiring free period products in state owned or leased buildings, buildings where a state funded safety net program is administered, and hospitals that receive state funding.

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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/>.

California is leading the way for gender equity. As the Legislature works to further address gender inequities, access to period products must be included in these efforts. SB 59 – Equity, Period – will help to do this by ensuring the state is creating inclusive spaces and have a significant impact on the economic and physical health of the millions of Californians who menstruate. It will do this by requiring that free period products be offered in all women's restrooms, all-gender restrooms, and in at least one men's restroom in all state or state-leased buildings, all buildings where state-funded safety-net programs are administered, and all hospitals that receive state funding.

The simple act of ensuring access to period products respects an essential bodily function of women across the state, will help reduce the legacy of shame associated with menstruation, and will also improve equity for our workforce and residents.

It is for these reasons, SBWPC is pleased to support SB 59.

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: Sen. Monique Limón , email: Jimmy.Wittrock@sen.ca.gov

CC: Sen. Nancy Skinner, email: Kapri.Walker@sen.ca.gov

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