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Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee

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

April 29, 2025

The Honorable Mia Bonta
1020 N Street, LOB Suite 390
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0018
Email: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

RE: AB 1261 – Immigration: unaccompanied and undocumented minors - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), we are writing to express support for AB 1261 addressing the right to legal counsel for unaccompanied and undocumented minors. SBWPC's mission is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values. We advocate for a diverse set of positions which include belief in and promotion of full and equal rights for all. Our position calls for policies that ensure that immigrant communities are free from harassment, intimidation, family separation, inhumane and/or unlawful detainment, and discrimination, as well as receiving equal protection and due process under the law. <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>.

We support AB 1261's establishment of a right to legal counsel for unaccompanied minors residing in California who have been placed in immigration removal proceedings. This bill mandates the provision or appointment of legal counsel to all unaccompanied children in such proceedings, unless they have independently secured representation. While certain organizations provide pro-bono legal services to children, many minors still have to face these complex legal processes on their own.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards AB 1261 as an important step forward in implementing fair, equitable, and compassionate immigration policies. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of AB 1261.**

Should you wish to communicate further with us, please email us at info@sbwpc.org or visit our website: www.sbwpc.org

Sincerely,

Lisa Guravitz Elsa Granados

Lisa Guravitz/Elsa Granados
Co-Presidents, SBWPC

Cc: The Honorable Gregg Hart email: Gregg.Hart@asm.ca.gov