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

April 23, 2025

The Honorable Catherine Stefani
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0019
Email: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/> (CA Legislature Position Letter Portal)

RE: AB 1363 (STEFANI) WYLAND'S LAW - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Stefani,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for Wyland's Law (AB 1363) by Asm. Stefani. This important bill addresses a serious gap in the current system, and ensures that protective orders, critical for the safety of survivors of violence, are properly transmitted and verifiable.

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 Gun Violence and Crimes Against Women (see <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>). Our Gun Violence position paper states in part, "The unacceptable levels of gun violence require a public health approach to education and prevention, including addressing the easy availability of handguns, assault weapons, and ammunition."

We strongly support policies designed to protect survivors, and the tragic example of 10-year-old Thomas Wyland Gomes, due to the failure of the system to protect him from his father, couldn't be more consistent with our values. Wyland's death was directly related to the failure of the Kings County Superior Court to transmit the restraining order for firearm restriction to state law enforcement databases that should have flagged Gomes as a prohibited buyer in a timely manner. As a result, Victor Gomes was able to purchase a firearm, ultimately killing his son Wyland.

AB 1363 would require county courts to keep records proving they submitted the orders and to make those records accessible within one day, which would allow families and victims to



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track the process and those with restraining orders from buying guns before the paperwork has been filed.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards AB 1363 as an important step forward to provide critical safeguards to prevent similar tragedies. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as supporters of AB 1363 Wyland's Law.**

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,

Lisa Guravitz Elsa Granados

Lisa Guravitz/Elsa Granados
Co-Presidents, SBWPC

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