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

June 17, 2025

The Honorable Nick Schultz
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5150
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: Jim.Metropulos@asm.ca.gov

RE: SB 258 (Wahab) Crimes.rape (Justice for Disabled Spouses) - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Schultz:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to again express support for SB 258 (Wahab) Crimes. Rape, addressing justice for disabled spouses. SBWPC's mission is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values. As an active and effective women's political committee in Santa Barbara County, representing hundreds of members, we advocate for a diverse set of positions which includes Crimes Against Women. <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>.

We are aware that the law currently permits the rape of a spouse who is unable to consent due to a disability while the same act of rape when committed by a non-married partner is a crime. This is an egregious loophole and injustice that must end. As shown in the Gisèle Pelicot case in France, spousal rape is all too frequent. An estimated 1 in 10 married women have been raped by their spouse, often 20 or more times (National Resource Center of Domestic Violence). For disabled spouses, the prevalence is likely higher, given that disabled people are four times as likely to be sexually assaulted than their nondisabled counterparts (U.S. Department of Justice). We must prioritize justice for disabled survivors who are often left behind.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards SB 258 as the obvious opportunity to right a wrong and to end this unjust spousal rape exemption. SB 258 is the legislation that California needs. When in the Senate, SBWPC submitted a similar support letter through the California Legislature Position Letter Portal. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to restate our organization's support for SB 258.**

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; lenh.voong@asm.ca.gov Legislative Director
Cc: Jennie Hutchinson secretary@nwpcca.org



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