March 15, 2023

Chair Brian Maienschein
Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 549 (Wilson) California Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) - Strong Support

On behalf of Black Woman Organized for Political Action, Political Action Committee (BWOPA-PAC), we write in **strong support of AB 549 (Wilson), the California Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Act.** BWOPA's mission is to increase the participation of Black women in the political process and to promote their collective political power. BWOPA is dedicated to advocating for policies and legislation that address issues affecting Black women, their families, and their communities. These issues include healthcare, education, economic justice, criminal justice reform, and voting rights.

This bill recognizes the continued need to analyze operations of state departments, policies, and programs to identify discrimination in employment practices, budgets, and provisions of direct and indirect services. It further provides the internal gender analysis to be completed in consultation with the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CCSWG), as a cost-saving measure that will enable all state departments to continue to improve.

The economy is not gender-neutral and neither are the systems of governance we have constructed over time. AB 549 provides simple internal data collection and support for state agencies to close gaps and eliminate blind spots across the state ecosystem without additional burdensome regulation. By asking each state agency to conduct its own internal examination of gender equity in funding and programs, CCSWG is perfectly positioned to help build a set of foundational processes in which gender equity is simply a part of how the California government conducts its business as a state.

There is more work to be done to battle systematic discrimination in the form of unequal pay, workplace harassment, domestic violence, limited access to healthcare, and more. The passage of AB 549 will build on our collective values of equality and offer a roadmap for the state to address systemic discrimination in all departments, policies, and budgets and through the provision of direct and indirect services.

For these reasons, we urge your strong support for AB 549 (Wilson).

Respectfully,

Dezie Woods-Jones

Hon. Dezie Woods Jones
State President
BWOPA-PAC

LaNiece Jones
State Executive Director
BWOPA-PAC