



• SAN FRANCISCO •
WOMEN'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE

**SFWPC Support for Ordinance No. 230308
establishing the Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force**

May 16, 2023

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, Ca 94102-4689

RE: Ordinance No. 230308 (Melgar) - Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force

Dear Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the San Francisco Women's Political Committee (SFWPC), we are writing in strong support of Ordinance No. 230308, which will amend the Administrative Code to establish the Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force to advise the Board of Supervisors regarding policies to reduce sexual assault at educational institutions.

As an organization that champions policies that advance intersectional feminism, gender equality, racial justice, wellness, and equity for all women, we recognize that it is essential to support students by reducing their risk of experiencing sexual violence in educational settings. We must put in place the right safeguards to interrupt cycles of abuse. Along with the Youth Commission, we urge the Board of Supervisors to reinstate the Task Force that was in place from 2016-2017 in order to establish best practices around the prevention and response to sexual violence in San Francisco's educational institutions.

In 2017, the Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force published an alarming report that showed that one in five women attending San Francisco colleges and universities are sexually assaulted in the course of their education¹. The Task Force recommended 47 actionable items to ensure a coordinated response to cases, the safety of all students, and support for survivors.

¹ Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force Report Highlights, Department on the Status of Women (December 2017)



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Sexual assault can have a tremendous impact on an individual's life. In the case of students, research shows that it can have a negative effect on both GPA and dropout rate with 34.1% of survivors dropping out of school². Ordinance No. 230308 creates a new Task Force that will improve San Francisco's response to sexual assault, show the city's commitment to protect all students and support their success. The Task Force would meet for three years, which would allow for continuity of actions and the ability for schools to implement long-term, life-changing initiatives for our most vulnerable students. This new Task Force is set to have youth representation, which is critical to make sure students' concerns are properly addressed.

We urge you to support Ordinance No. 230308. By supporting this legislation, we recognize the rights of students in San Francisco to study and live in an environment free of sexual assault, ensure accountability, and provide support to survivors.

Sincerely,

SFWPC Board of Directors

²Mengo, C., & Black, Beverly (2015) - Violence Victimization on a College Campus: Impact on GPA and School Dropout - Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory & Practice