MWM
Million Women Mentors®
Advancing Women and Girls in STEM Careers Through Mentoring

March 22, 2017

Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
Revenue and Taxation Committee, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2176
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 624 Robotics Club Tax Credit (Maienschein) – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Ridley-Thomas,

On behalf of Million Women Mentors, California (MWM-CA) , I urge your support of AB 624, which would provide funding through citizen and state support and encourage more donors to contribute to students' interest in STEM and robotics. Jobs within the STEM field represent a large amount of job growth throughout California and the U.S. Despite this growth of job availability, only approximately 40% of men and 28% of women attain their undergraduate degree in STEM majors. Furthermore, by 2018 jobs in the STEM field are to grow 17% compared to non-STEM jobs projected growth of 9%. The tax credit or tax deduction would give a major incentive to philanthropists that support students' interest in STEM.

Supporting robotics clubs in high schools across the state, students are exposed to different aspects of STEM and may be encouraged to major in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics in a higher education program. Additionally these clubs teach valuable skills that can be applied to whichever profession students choose such as teamwork, leadership, marketing, public relations, fundraising, and entrepreneurship.

By promoting donations through tax credits or deductions, schools may be able to provide students access to robotics programs that support and embolden them to strive for a profession in these areas.

I support AB 624 and urge your 'aye' vote.

Sincerely,

Danielle Deveau-Sires
Director, State of California

cc: Members of the Assembly Revenue and Texation Committee
Nadra Mamou, Office of Assemblymember Brian Maienschein (Author)