



January 31, 2024

Ms. Jessica Mackler, Interim President  
EMILYs List  
1800 M St NW, Suite 375N  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: EMILYs List's financial support of CA47 candidate Joanna Weiss

Dear Ms. Mackler,

A [POLITICO article dated 1/30/2024](#) quotes you as stating, “the path to electing a pro-choice majority to Congress runs straight through keeping California’s 47th Congressional District blue.” You continue with, “Orange County will be best served by Joanna Weiss, a mom, lawyer, and founder of a grassroots organization responsible for progress in her community.”

We, the board members of Democrats of Greater Irvine, whose city is the most populous and largest city in the 47<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, respectfully disagree.

It appears that EMILYs List, an outside group based in Washington, D.C. may not have thoroughly vetted Ms. Weiss; for example, she does not even live in our district. More importantly, it appears that your organization has insufficiently researched the demographics of our district.

Had your organization done its due diligence, it would have found that our district has a large AAPI population, who in 2020, were instrumental in electing another CA47 Democratic candidate, State Senator Dave Min.

Our district’s large AAPI community played a pivotal role that year in which they showed a clear preference for candidates like Senator Min who embody their experiences and concerns.

Senator Min won in a tough election year in which he outperformed our Orange County congressional candidates: Representative Katie Porter, former Representative Harley Rouda (who lost his reelection to Republican AAPI candidate, Michelle Steel), and former Representative Gil Cisneros (who lost his reelection to Republican AAPI candidate Young Kim). Coupled with Senator Min’s [record of accomplishments](#), [endorsements](#) and widespread name recognition, **the winning combination of the AAPI vote with Senator Min is irrefutable and will keep this seat blue.**

Also, had your organization done its due diligence of Ms. Weiss, who has never run for office, you would have discovered that her family’s personal wealth which is funding her campaign [is tied to defending the Catholic Diocese of Orange County in at least four sexual abuse lawsuits](#). This scandal will strongly dissuade voters in CA47. Also, Ms. Weiss will be viewed as a “carpetbagger” who sends her children to expensive private schools outside the district. All of these factors will alienate a broad spectrum of our constituency.

Ms. Weiss' lack of experience, her family's tie to the Catholic Church sexual abuse scandal, [her negative and racist anti-Asian campaign](#), and her lack of connection to our district are detrimental and will put Democrats at a grave risk of losing this seat, [as compared to any past mistakes made by Senator Min](#).

We support EMILYs List's mission to elect more women representatives. However, backing the flawed campaign of Ms. Weiss will harm the chances of electing a Democratic House majority in 2024. Senator Min's proven track record, including a 100% rating from Planned Parenthood, feminist credentials, and strong community ties **position Senator Min as a far more viable candidate to secure a Democratic victory in November**.

We ask that EMILYs List reconsider spending its funds on Ms. Weiss, and instead redirect its money to more viable or electable women candidates such as the Democratic party-endorsed candidate in CA45, Kim Nguyen-Penalosa and EMILYs List-endorsed candidate in CA40, Allyson Muñiz Damikolas.

Sincerely,

**The Democrats of Greater Irvine board members**

Dr. Kev Abazajian, Chair

Mari Fujii, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair

Dr. Lurette Forrest, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

Don Geller, Treasurer

Joel Davis, Communications Chair