THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN ELECTED OFFICE

*Bettina Duval**

The United States currently ranks eightieth for women holding positions in national government.[1] California's government ranks fourth in gender parity—ten years ago it was number one in the country.[2] So why are we falling behind? Many people assume that in the United States, and especially in states such as California, women are regularly elected to office.[3] This is simply not true. This willful blindness to gender inequality causes a false perception of gender parity. In

nia and in the United States.

CaliforniaLIST, a political action committee modeled after Emily's List, was founded in 2002.[4] Its mission is to elect Democratic, pro-choice women in California.[5] In 2003, there were eleven women in our