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March 15, 2017

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Support AB 766 (Friedman) – Foster Youth

Dear Assemblymember Rubio:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we are writing in support of AB 766 which will provide vital educational housing support for foster youth attending college that are still minors.

Currently, youth in foster care are significantly less likely to attend post-secondary education and if they do, they are less likely to earn a degree, primarily due to a lack of resources. Presently, college housing is automatically approved as a Supervised Independent Living Placement ("SILP") for foster youth ages 18-21, allowing a youth to live independently while receiving funding and services to support the placement.

However, foster students who are still minors are currently not eligible for SILP to cover their housing. AB 766 would allow SILP housing eligibility for all foster youth enrolled in college regardless of whether they have turned eighteen.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. CWLC recognizes the importance of ensuring equal access to education. No foster youth should be denied an education due to a lack of resources. AB 766 addresses this gap by extending SILP eligibility to foster youth under the age of eighteen who are attending college and residing in college housing.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports AB 766.

Sincerely,

Betsy Butler
Executive Director