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Betsy Butler

April 3, 2018

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
1020 N Street, Room 521
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support SB 982 (Mitchell)

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of SB 982, which would address child poverty in the CalWORKs program by increasing CalWORKs grants.

Currently, CalWORKs grants are too low to support the healthy growth and development of California's poorest children. The current average CalWORKs grant is \$556 for a family of three, 33% of the Federal Poverty Line. The CalWORKs program serves 1.1 million individuals in California, 80% of whom are children. When children live in deep poverty, they endure hardships that impair their ability to thrive. The poverty they experience also impacts their capacity to learn and develop throughout their life. Children who live in poverty are less likely to graduate high school, and more likely to have poor health as children and in adulthood and become involved in the criminal justice system. Deep poverty damages a child's likelihood of escaping generational cycles of poverty.

SB 982 endeavors to help address deep poverty in the CalWORKs program. By doing so, it will protect children from the worst harms of chronically unmet basic needs and better enable the CalWORKs program to achieve its goals.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. CWLC recognizes the impact poverty can have on a young person's life and the lives of their families and believes no child's health or future should be limited because of their socioeconomic status.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 982.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director