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Betsy Butler

April 6, 2018

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 94814

Re: Support SB 990

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of SB 990, which ensures the dignity, identity and gender of LGBTQ people are honored in incarceration. SB 990 will allow LGBTQ people and others at high risk of sexual assault and harassment the equal opportunity to access rehabilitative, educational and work programs that will help them succeed upon release.

Due to circumstances outside of their control, LGBTQ people in custody are typically at much greater risk for sexual victimization and other forms of assault or harassment. Because of this, prison and jail staff often remove LGBTQ people from the general population and house them separately with limited or no access to rehabilitative programming, educational programming, religious programming and work opportunities that are critical for successful rehabilitation and earning credits towards release.

SB 990 allows incarcerated individuals housed outside of the general population for more than five days to receive the same programming opportunities as individuals housed in the general population. SB 990 also allows anyone to designate their gender identity, preferred first name, gender pronoun, and honorific during the intake process and requires all staff and contractors to honor those preferences in written and verbal communication with the incarcerated person.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. For nearly 30 years, CWLC has fought for gender equity in all areas, including fighting discrimination against LGBTQ individuals.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 990.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director