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March 14, 2017

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

RE: Support SB 282 (Wiener) – The Reducing Hunger Among Vulnerable Californians Act of 2017

Dear Senator Wiener:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of Senate Bill 282 which will increase access to prepared food for low income, homeless, elderly and disabled Californians, and will create job opportunities for childless homeless adults.

Despite the fact that California has the fastest overall rate of job growth in the country, many Californians remain unemployed or underemployed with limited access to publicly-funded assistance, leaving job prospects too far out of reach.

SB 282 will increase access to jobs and reduce hunger among these vulnerable adults by requiring the Department of Social Services to seek a federal waiver that would allow counties participating in the CalFresh Employment and Training Program to offer subsidized employment to Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). It would also codify the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) and clarify that counties can target the program to certain regions or food retailers.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 282.

Sincerely,

Betsy Butler
Executive Director