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March 14, 2017

Honorable Scott D. Wiener  
Chair, Senate Human Services Committee  
State Capitol, Room 4011  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support SB 570 (Newman) – G.I. Bill CalWORKs

Dear Senator Wiener:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of Senate Bill 570 which would amend the rules governing income and eligibility for the CalWORKs program to exempt all education related benefits paid to military, veteran and surviving family members by the United States Veteran Administration (VA) from income tests for the program.

Current law exempts G.I. Bill education benefits from CalWORKs income tests, but is silent as to whether housing stipends available for post-911 G.I. Bill recipients or education benefits received by surviving family members are exempt from consideration under the CalWORKs program. Supporting low-income parents in their education and training not only improves their economic opportunities, but also improves the likelihood of educational success for their children.

SB 570 will ensure that military, veteran and surviving family members fully benefit from the G.I. Bill and other VA education payments.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 570.

Sincerely,

Betsy Butler  
Executive Director