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March 11, 2020

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer Sr.  
Chair, Committee on Public Safety  
1020 N Street, Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 2236 (Gabriel) – Support**

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of AB 2236, which strengthens the training requirements for peace officers related to hate crimes.

In 2018, the California State Auditor released a report showing that law enforcement agencies do not adequately identify, report, or respond to hate crimes. The audit found that the law enforcement agencies surveyed failed to report 97 hate crimes (equaling 14 % of those identified) to the Department of Justice (DOJ). The audit concluded that "law enforcement agencies' inadequate policies and the DOJ's lack of oversight have resulted in the underreporting of hate crimes in the DOJ's Hate Crime Database."

It is crucial that peace officers are appropriately and consistently trained to identify, report, and respond to hate crimes. AB 2236 will ensure peace officers receive comprehensive training in hate crime identification, and will require all in-service peace officers take a refresher course every three years. AB 2236 will also task the the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training with developing and updating this course.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. AB 2236 will improve law enforcement's ability to respond appropriately and effectively to hate crimes, creating safer communities.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports AB 2236.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director

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