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Betsy Butler

August 5, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2192 (Salas) – Support

Dear Senator Lara:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we are writing in support of AB 2192, which would assist low-income litigants in California by continuing to provide funds for shorthand reporting services. CWLC strongly supports AB 2192 because it will ensure equal access to justice in California courts. We are writing to urge you to support efforts to move it from the Senate Appropriations suspense file to the floor for a vote.

Currently, the law allows fees collected for the renewal of a certificate issued by the Court Reporters Board of California to be desposited into the Court Reporters' Fund. This fund provides certain revenues for the Transcript Reimbursement Fund, which provides reimbursement for the cost of providing shorthand reporting services to low-income litigants in civil cases. This transfer of funds from the Court Reporters' Fund to the Transcript Reimbursement Fund is required until January 1, 2017. AB 2192 would extend the operation of the Transcript Reimbursement Fund until January 1, 2020.

Court reporting services are necessary to create neutral verbatim accounts of court hearings. The transcripts court reporters produce are also needed for potential appeals of court proceedings. Further, transcripts can act as monitors for unfairness and abuse in the courts. There are many who cannot afford attorneys or court reporting services, so the provision of these transcripts are especially important to low-income litigants.

Since its founding in 1989, CWLC has worked to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. A vital part of our mission is to ensure that women, particularly low-income women, are given fair treatment in the court system.

The California Women's Law Center strongly supports AB 2192, which will ensure California continues to protect the rights of low income litigants.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director