



Board of Directors

Board President

Lois Thompson
Proskauer Rose LLP

Board Vice President

Mira El Sonbaty
Fox Group Legal

Board Treasurer

Chris Hollinger
O'Melveny & Myers LLP

Board Secretary

Cathy Kim
Consultant

Members

Tony Blain
Blain & Associates

Samantha Caldwell
Health Net Inc.

Christa M. Demeke
Roll Law Group P.C.

Theane Evangelis
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Victor George
Law Offices of Victor L. George

Rasha Geroges Shields
Jones Day

Lisa Gilford
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Esra Hudson
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP

Diana Hughes Leiden
Winston & Strawn LLP

Bethany Kristovich
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

Anna Menedjian
2020 Inc.

Eddie Mermelstein, Esq.
FEM Law Group

Erika Norman
Arnold & Porter

Pamela Palmer
Pepper Hamilton LLP

Amy Quartarolo
Latham & Watkins LLP

Executive Director
Betsy Butler

April 27, 2017

The Honorable Jim Beall
State Capitol, Room 5066
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support SB 755 (Beall) – Support

Dear Senator Beall:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of Senate Bill 755, which would implement sensible parameters regarding how long a child under 15 years of age can be interviewed in any action where there is credible evidence the child has been sexually abused.

Attorneys who represent sexually abused children in civil lawsuits have reported a disturbing current practice of unnecessarily long and abusive psychological exams of the children by the defendant's paid mental health examiners. Needlessly long interviews are often traumatic for children who are already emotionally fragile because they are victims of abuse. In a recent case, three girls between the ages of five and seven who had been sexually molested at a daycare center were examined by the defendant's mental health experts for over four hours, causing the girls severe emotional distress.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. We recognize the importance of ensuring that children who are victims of sexual abuse are not unnecessarily further traumatized by their pursuit of justice in the courts. SB 755 will limit such re-traumatization and give support to child victims of sexual assault by restricting defense psychological exams to a three hour maximum, inclusive of breaks.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center strongly supports SB 755.

Sincerely,

Betsy Butler

Executive Director