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Betsy Butler

May 24, 2018

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1292 (Hueso) – Support

Dear Senator Lara,

On behalf of the California Women's Center, we write in support of SB 1292, which would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation requiring the State Department of Public Health conduct a study to examine the impact of Alzheimer's disease on minorities and women.

Current law requires the State Department of Public Health to provide public and professional education on Alzheimer's disease to educate consumers, caregivers, and health care providers, and to increase public awareness. SB 1292 requires the Department's Office of Health Equity (OHE) to conduct a study to determine the burden and economic cost of Alzheimer's disease in California on African Americans, Latinos, and women, and to submit a report to the Legislature, by January 1, 2020, summarizing the study's findings.

Over the next 20 years, the number of Californians living with Alzheimer's disease will double. Alzheimer's is often underreported and diagnosed at a later stage in the disease among people of color. About 1.1 million Californians currently provide unpaid care for a person with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. This number is also expected to double, and women account for 75 percent of all caretakers.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. CWLC recognizes that aging in California is a women's issue because women represent 40 percent more of the over-65 population than men. For nearly 30 years, CWLC has prioritized the issues of aging and poverty in California.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 1292.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director