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Executive Director Betsy Butler April 2, 2019

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel California State Assembly State Capitol, Room 4139 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 624 (Gabriel) - Support

Dear Assemblymember Gabriel,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of AB 624 which will require public and private middle and high schools to issue identification cards with the numbers for the National Domestic Violence Hotline and the National Sexual Assault Hotline printed on them, in addition to a number to access reproductive health services.

Teenagers are at a high risk of experiencing sexual violence. Each year, approximately 1.5 million high school students nationwide are victims of abuse from a dating partner, which means 1 in 3 adolescents will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse during a relationship. It is vitally important that students know where to turn to seek help if they are experiencing or witnessing sexual violence.

It is also critical that students are able to receive unbiased and scientifically-based reproductive health information. Our country's teen birth rate remains higher than that of other industrialized countries and over 80% of teen births in California are unplanned. As STI rates continue to increase among California teens and young adults, we must ensure students have information about reproductive health care.

AB 624 ensures that vital information and resources are accessible to California's teenagers and that they can easily seek out assistance if needed.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. For 30 years, CWLC has been on the frontlines fighting for students' right to an education free of violence and for full reproductive health options and information for all. All students deserve access to resources that will benefit their health and wellbeing.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center strongly supports AB 624.

Sincerely,

Betsy Butler Executive Director

Getsy Butler