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Betsy Butler

October 7, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 464 (Mitchell) – Urge Signature

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write to urge your signature on SB 464, which would require implicit bias training for perinatal providers and improve the collection of data related to maternal mortality rates.

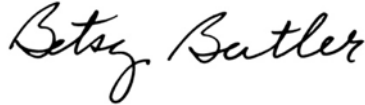
Although Black women make up only 5% of the births in California, they comprise 21% of pregnancy-related deaths. Currently, even middle and high-income Black mothers have worse birthing outcomes than white women in severe poverty. Evidence indicates that implicit racial bias is one of the causes of the wide disparity between Black women's maternal mortality rates compared with other ethnicities.

SB 464 would require all perinatal medical providers to undergo evidence-based implicit bias training. It would also require the California Department of Health to track maternal mortality and morbidity rates, including information about underlying causes. Finally, SB 464 would require hospitals to inform patients where to file a civil rights complaint if they experience discrimination.

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, we have prioritized ensuring all women have access to comprehensive healthcare. AB 464 will assist in addressing the root causes of racial disparities in birthing outcomes.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center respectfully urges your signature on SB 464.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director