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June 24, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 300 (Chu) – Support

Dear Senator Skinner,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of AB 300, which will improve accuracy in the reporting of hate crimes in California.

Currently, law enforcement agencies do not adequately identify, report or respond to hate crimes. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, hate crimes continue to increase across the nation, and California experienced a 17% percent jump in 2017. The majority of victims are targeted because of their race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.

AB 300 will alleviate underreporting and misreporting of hate crimes and improve prosecution rates by requiring specific reports from law enforcement agencies in California to include a checkbox indicating whether a case is a hate crime. This will ensure our law enforcement agencies are better equipped to report hate crimes or incidents and gather the information necessary for the prosecution of such cases.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. AB 300 will improve law enforcement's ability to respond appropriately and effectively to hate-based violence, creating a safer California for all.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports AB 300.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director