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March 12, 2020

The Honorable Steven M. Glazer
Chair, Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development
State Capitol, Room 2053
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 885 (Pan) – Support

Dear Senator Glazer,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of SB 885 which will address California's Sexually-Transmitted-Disease (STD) crisis by expanding access to STD care and coverage for low-income Californians.

STD rates are at an alarming and historic high in California. Nearly 340,000 Californians were infected with syphilis, chlamydia, or gonorrhea in 2018 – an increase of 40% since 2013. More than 329 babies were born with congenital syphilis, and an additional 20 stillbirths were associated with the disease.

This public health crisis affects all communities but youth, people of color, bisexual and transgender women, and gay and bisexual men, are disproportionately impacted. Studies by the Centers for Disease Control suggest a range of factors can contribute to rising STD rates, including lack of access to health care and culturally competent medical services, poverty, stigma, discrimination, and drug use.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. We prioritize ensuring equal access to health care for all.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 885.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director