

March 17, 2020

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The Honorable Eloise Gomez Reyes  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Human Services  
1020 N Street, Room 124  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 2035 (Rubio) – Support**

Dear Assemblymember Reyes,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of AB 2035, which will improve health outcomes for youth in foster care by helping ensure they have access to sexual health education.

California has established a high standard for sexual health education through the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA). Despite this, a 2016 study of youth in California's foster care system found that by age 19, about half of the females surveyed had been pregnant, more than double the rate of the general population. Two-thirds of the pregnancies were not planned. In addition, foster youth reported experiencing disproportionately higher rates of sexually transmitted infections.

AB 2035 would require county social workers to report to juvenile courts whether foster youth or nonminor dependents have received comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education as mandated under CHYA. It would also require caregivers be trained annually in sexual and reproductive health care and would mandate the Department of Social Services report outcome and performance data regarding implementation of sexual and reproductive health training.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. All youth should have equal access to health care and education, regardless of their foster status.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports AB 2035.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director