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Betsy Butler

March 16, 2021

Senator Susan Rubio  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 678 (Rubio) – Support**

Dear Senator Rubio,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of SB 678 which will help create programs and strategies to address the specific needs of women without dependents who are experiencing homelessness.

Unhoused women who do not have dependents are classified as unaccompanied women. Nationally, these women account for nearly one in three adult individuals experiencing homelessness.

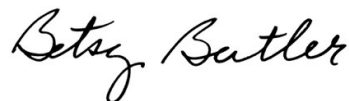
Unfortunately, despite making up a significant portion of the unsheltered population, California does not specifically allocate resources to help unaccompanied women in the same way it does for other homeless populations like veterans and families. As a result, unaccompanied unsheltered women wait over ten years on average to access stable housing which is two and a half times longer than the average for men. In addition, 80% of unaccompanied women report trauma or abuse as a cause of their homelessness.

SB 678 requires the state's Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to set specific, measurable goals tailored to preventing and ending homelessness among unaccompanied women.

CWLC's mission is to create a more just and equitable society by breaking down barriers and advancing the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. SB 678 will make it more likely that the significant population of unaccompanied unsheltered women in California have access to the resources they need.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 678.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director