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Betsy Butler

March 30, 2021

Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian
Chair, Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee
State Capitol, Room 153
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 636 (Maienschein) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Nazarian,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of AB 636 which would allow agencies charged with investigating elder abuse to share information that will allow for more robust investigation and prosecution of substandard care in elder care facilities.

Elder abuse is a largely hidden problem. Approximately one in ten Americans 60 years or older have experienced some form of elder abuse. For each reported incident of elder abuse, another 24 go unreported. Older adults are especially vulnerable, frequently because of social isolation and mental impairment.

Current California law establishes procedures for reporting, investigating, and prosecuting elder and dependent adult abuse and requires information about these incidents be provided to specified investigators. These specified investigators include those from Adult Protective Services, local law enforcement, and the probate court.

AB 636 would also authorize information relevant to the incident be provided to the federal law enforcement agency charged with the investigation of elder or dependent adult abuse, or to a local code enforcement agency. The information would be provided for the sole purpose of investigating the health and safety of an elder or dependent adult resident who may be at risk.

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. AB 636 would expand protections for elder and dependent adults, the majority of whom are women.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports AB 636.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director