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March 30, 2021

Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer Sr.  
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol, Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1007 (Carrillo) – Support**

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of AB 1007 which will provide reparations to California survivors of forced sterilizations.

Between 1909 and 1979, California forcibly sterilized 20,000 people in state institutions, the most aggressive eugenics sterilization record in the nation. Those sterilized under eugenics laws were classified as having disabilities and deemed "unfit to reproduce." The average age of the person sterilized was 17 years old. Women and girls were 14% more likely to be sterilized than males, and Latina patients were 59% more likely to be sterilized than non-Latinas.

Although this practice was prohibited in 1979, a subsequent state audit revealed that between 2006 and 2010, an additional 144 people were sterilized in California's women's prisons during labor and delivery without their required consent. Sixty-five percent of these forced sterilization survivors described themselves as Black, Hispanic, Mexican, or other. Many of the people identified in the audit were never notified and research indicates that there may be another 100 involuntary prison sterilizations from the 1990s.

AB 1007 will provide reparations to survivors of forced sterilization and establish an outreach and sterilization notification program in consultation with community-based organizations to help prevent forced sterilization from ever happening again.

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 1007 acknowledges the discriminatory harm inflicted on Californians by forced sterilization.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports AB 1007.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director