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Betsy Butler

March 10, 2021

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 379 (Wiener) – Support

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of SB 379 which would prohibit the University of California from entering into a contract with any health facility that limits providers' ability to give patients full medical information and services.

Currently, the University of California Health System has healthcare facility contracts that subject University of California providers to restrictions which limit the types of services they can provide. Some of these contracts explicitly prevent University of California doctors from providing reproductive and LGBTQ inclusive care, which can include contraception, abortion, and gender-affirming care.

California law recognizes reproductive care, including abortion, as basic healthcare. Further, California law prevents and restricts public health entities from preferring one pregnancy outcome over another and prohibits discrimination against transgender patients seeking gender-affirming care. Despite these laws, people in California are denied these critical services.

SB 379 ensures that the University of California will only contract with healthcare facilities that permit and encourage staff to provide a full range of healthcare services, including reproductive and gender-affirming care.

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. We prioritize reproductive justice including access to healthcare for women and members of the LGBTQ community.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 379.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director