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Executive Director
Betsy Butler

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 306 (Pan) – Support

Dear Dr. Pan,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of SB 306 which will expand treatment coverage for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), improve health outcomes and create a more equitable health system.

New data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates one in five people in the United States have an STD. In 2018, nearly 340,000 Californians were infected with syphilis, chlamydia, or gonorrhea – up 40% since 2013. More than 329 babies were born with congenital syphilis and there were 20 stillbirths associated with the disease in 2018.


The STD health crisis has affected people across the state, with our communities of color, LGBT and young people being disproportionately impacted. Untreated STDs can lead to serious and expensive long-term health consequences.

SB 306 will expand access to STD services and treatment for low-income and uninsured patients through the Family PACT program and provider network. The bill will improve prevention through home testing and expand the number of health care professionals providing rapid testing. It will revise current law to support the delivery and increased utilization of Expedited Partner Therapy, an evidence-based and effective STD prevention practice. SB 306 will also update state law to require congenital syphilis testing during the third trimester of pregnancy.

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 306 will improve the health outcomes of Californians who have contracted, or are at risk of contracting, an STD.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 306.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director