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Betsy Butler

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Mark Stone
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95817

Re: AB 1455 (Wicks) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Stone,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of AB 1455 which gives people who have been raped or sexually assaulted by a law enforcement agent a realistic opportunity to seek civil redress.

California law gives victims of rape or sexual assault by on-duty police officers the right to sue their attacker, but does not ensure safety measures for these victims. Without protection, law enforcement officers have been able to use their power and authority to stalk, arrest, threaten, or retaliate against their victims.

The current statute of limitations for sexual assault victims over the age of eighteen to bring a civil case against a law enforcement officer is ten years from the date of the last act, attempted act, or assault with the intent to commit an act, or within three years of the date that the plaintiff discovered an injury or illness. However, due to the Government Claims Act, a plaintiff intending to sue a law enforcement officer must present a claim for injury or monetary damages no later than six months after the cause of action.

AB 1455 would exempt a claim rising out of an alleged sexual assault by a law enforcement officer if the alleged assault occurred while the officer was employed. The bill would give victims of sexual assault by a law enforcement officer ten years after the date of judgment in a criminal case or ten years after the law enforcement officer is no longer employed by the agency, whichever is later, to file a civil claim.

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 ensuring victims of sexual assault are able to pursue justice.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports AB 1455.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director

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