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Betsy Butler

September 8, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 2057 (Stone) – Urge Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we are writing to urge your signature on AB 2057 (Stone), which would help domestic violence victims start an independent, economically stable life on their own by increasing their access to CalFresh.

As part of the power and control inherent in abusive relationships, many people experiencing abuse find they have limited or no say in their own finances. Fear regarding financial stability often determines whether they return to an abuser. When domestic violence victims leave their abusers, it is important that victims can focus on their safety and the safety of anyone else they may be taking out of the household. At such a stressful and dangerous time in their lives, victims should not have to worry about how they will be able to eat. Further, if victims are on the same CalFresh card as their partners, they may worry their partners will track their movements through shared CalFresh accounts. To protect victims' safety, California must quickly process new CalFresh accounts for victims so they will be better protected from their partners and be able to access their benefits easily.

Since its founding in 1989, CWLC has worked to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. A vital part of our mission is to ensure that women have the ability to be free from domestic violence.

CWLC strongly urges your signature on AB 2057, which would eliminate obstacles that prevent domestic violence victims from achieving physical and financial safety.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director