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August 21, 2018

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

Re: Support AB 2413 (Chiu) – The Right to a Safe Home Act

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write to urge your signature on AB 2413, which would allow every Californian to call for help without fear of eviction.

Current law provides protections for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and elder and dependent adult abuse from nuisance ordinance-related evictions. However, the protections are only implemented when survivors produce a restraining order or police report. Further, current protections omit survivors of other trauma-related events and individuals who are seeking emergency assistance.

AB 2413, the Right to A Safe Home Act, is an opportunity to protect survivors of various crimes and trauma and address California's current homelessness crisis by keeping people in their homes. The bill expands the list of protected tenants to include victims of crime and individuals experiencing an emergency. AB 2413 also offers survivors the option to provide documentation from a trusted and qualified third party, such as a counselor, caseworker, or doctor, rather than only a police report or order of protection. AB 2413 will allow California to join other states, including Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Indiana, in making sure individuals who need emergency services to maintain their safety are not evicted from their homes.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. CWLC understands the importance of housing security for women and families, particularly in the face of trauma or sexual violence.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports Assembly Bill 2413.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director