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April 17, 2018

The Honorable Senator Connie Leyva
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4061
Sacramento, CA 94814

Re: Support SB 820 – Stand Together Against Non-Disclosures (STAND) Act

Dear Senator Leyva,

The California Women's Law Center (CWLC) is proud to co-sponsor SB 820, which would bar confidentiality provisions in settlement agreements related to certain sexual offenses unless the claimant requests the inclusion of such a provision.

SB 820 will reform the civil process for sexual assault and harassment, making it unlawful to prevent a victim from disclosing factual information related to these causes of action unless they request it. These provisions are routinely included in settlement agreements and silence victims from speaking about their experience and their perpetrator. Incidents of sexual harassment and discrimination are already very likely to go unreported. SB 820 will place the power to decide the level of confidentiality back into the hands of the victim.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. For nearly 30 years, CWLC has been on the frontlines fighting against sexual violence, harassment and discrimination. SB 820 will help remove barriers for victims of sexual harassment, discrimination, and assault in pursuing their civil claims by allowing victims to speak up.

As a proud co-sponsor, the California Women's Law Center strongly supports SB 820.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director