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September 4, 2018

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

Re: SB 820 (Leyva) – Urge Signature

Dear Governor Brown,

The California Women's Law Center (CWLC) is a proud co-sponsor of SB 820, the STAND Act. This bill 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, routinely included in settlement agreements, silence victims from speaking about their experience and their perpetrator. Incidents of sexual harassment and discrimination are already 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. By signing SB 820, you will help remove barriers for victims of sexual harassment, discrimination, and assault in pursuing their civil claims by allowing victims to be heard.

As a proud co-sponsor, the California Women's Law Center strongly urges your signature on SB 820.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director