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March 21, 2019

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.  
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1052 (Chu) – Support**

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of AB 1052, which will require peace officers to undergo comprehensive hate crime training.

Hate crimes are increasing at an alarming rate. After rising consistently over the last four years, 2018 marked an all-time high in total reported hate crimes in California. The majority of victims are targeted because of their race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.

According to the 2018 audit of four major law enforcement agencies from the California State Auditor, agencies do not adequately identify, report or respond to hate crimes. Agencies do not have sufficient policies or tools to identify these crimes, and they do not provide refresher trainings that contain information that identify hate crimes nor do they communicate updates on hate crime laws.

It is crucial that peace officers are appropriately and consistently trained to identify, report and respond to hate crimes. AB 1052 will ensure peace officers receive comprehensive training for hate crime identification, and will require all in-service peace officers take a refresher course every three years. AB 1052 will also require that the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training develop and update this refresher course.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. AB 1052 will improve law enforcement's ability to respond appropriately and effectively to hate crimes, keeping our communities safe.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center strongly supports AB 1052.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler