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March 6, 2019

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado  
Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services  
1020 N Street, Room 521  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 234 (Skinner) - Support**

Dear Senator Hurtado,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of SB 234, which will update state law regarding affordable child care.

Currently, families are facing a desperate shortage of available child care options, as licensed child care providers are only available for 23% of children with working parents. A third of California's child care providers have been forced to close their doors since 2006 due to loopholes in current law, burdensome local regulations, and a lack of adequate housing protections.

SB 234 will update the nearly 40-year-old Child Day Care Facilities Act (CDCFA) by requiring local governments to treat large child care homes the same as small child care homes. It will also clarify that licensed child care homes may operate in apartments and other multifamily units. Additionally, SB 234 will update CDCFA's housing protections to ensure providers are not prohibited from living in a home solely because they care for children there, and will establish that child care providers may seek legal redress under the Fair Employment and Housing Act for violations of the CDCFA.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. SB 234 will help ensure parents have affordable childcare options throughout California, strengthening families and our communities.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 234.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director