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April 5, 2019

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
Chair, Assembly Committee on Human Services
State Capitol, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 865 (Reyes) - Support

Dear Assemblymember Reyes,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of AB 865 which will ensure foster youth who have been trafficked are placed with families who have received culturally appropriate training on human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a critical issue in the United States. Children as young as six years old are susceptible to exploitation, and foster youth are disproportionately affected, making up 60% of the estimated 100,000 children sex trafficked annually. Currently, caregivers who are responsible for these youth are not given access to proper training about exploitation and the best ways to support youth who are survivors of trafficking. As a result, these children experience higher rates of housing instability.

AB 865 will ensure families receive training to care for children who have been trafficked or who are at risk of being trafficked. By equipping families with the proper tools, California can help ensure these children are in safe, supportive and secure homes.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. AB 865 will ensure at-risk foster youth are placed with informed and caring families, and have access to the resources and support they need.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports AB 865.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director