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April 16, 2019

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 132 (Weiner) - Support

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of SB 132 which will update state law to require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to classify and house transgender people based on their gender identity.

Transgender people are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence. According to the national Bureau of Justice Statistics, almost 40% of incarcerated transgender individuals report experiencing sexual victimization while incarcerated, compared to 4% of incarcerated individuals overall. And in California transgender women are 13 times more likely to experience sexual assault in prison than men.

SB 132 will require CDCR to assign housing placement within a correctional facility according to a transgender person's gender identity unless there are security concerns. By doing so, California will decrease the likelihood of violence against these individuals. The bill also requires that the preferred first name, gender pronoun and honorific of the incarcerated transgender individual be used by facility staff in all communications, and permits incarcerated transgender people to specify the gender of correctional officers who may conduct lawful body searches on them.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. SB 132 will help ensure the safety and dignity of incarcerated transgender people.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center strongly supports SB 132.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director