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April 2, 2019

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado
Chair, Senate Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 268 (Weiner) - Support

Dear Senator Hurtado,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of SB 268 which will repeal the cash and vehicle asset tests for the California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids program (CalWORKs). Presently, these barriers prevent disadvantaged Californians from saving money and overcoming poverty.

The primary goal of the CalWORKs program is to move families out of poverty toward economic self-sufficiency. Currently, families on CalWORKs are hampered in reaching financial self-sufficiency because they are restricted by an asset limit that confines families to no more than \$2,250 in savings and one car. The asset limit discourages families who are working their way off public assistance from setting aside savings so they can remain eligible for assistance. Recipients fear saving money because they believe that even a small amount of emergency savings will make them appear more financially secure than they are. As a result, these families lack the savings needed to cope with minor financial setbacks, such as car breakdown or a child with a medical emergency.

SB 268 will repeal the CalWORKs cash and vehicle asset tests, encouraging families to save money and help them transition out of poverty. Repealing these asset tests will also relieve counties of the cost of investigating the value of an applicant or recipient family's assets in determining their eligibility, eliminating \$6.4 million in administrative costs.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. SB 268 is an important step towards helping low-income Californians achieve financial stability.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 268.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director