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April 17, 2019

The Honorable Mike Morrell  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 3056  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 673 (Morrell) – Oppose**

Dear Senator Morrell,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in opposition to SB 673 which will change the current opt-out process for sexual education in schools for students below seventh grade to an onerous opt-in provision and will add unnecessary inspection requirements.

By requiring opt-in consent for grades six and under, SB 673 runs counter to best practices and medical evidence. The current opt-out procedure allows parents and guardians to decline sexual education instruction and ensures students are not accidentally withheld from class. In addition, the new inspection requirements are burdensome and unwarranted because current law already provides for robust notice and parental access to the materials used in class prior to the commencement of instruction.

Current law allows, but does not require, age-appropriate sexual health education prior to seventh grade. Broad research supports age-appropriate sexual health education in lower grades and shows that early sexual health education lays a foundation for instruction on more complex and developmentally advanced topics in higher grades. Quality sexual health education is especially critical for low-income communities and communities of color, where people in these demographics disproportionately experience discrimination, poverty and inadequate health care. It is imperative that California public schools continue to provide comprehensive sexual health education to protect students and their families.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. SB 673 will create unnecessary and harmful obstacles for California's students to receive sexual health education.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center respectfully opposes SB 673.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director