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Betsy Butler

August 8, 2016

Assemblymember Catharine Baker
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 1399 (Baker) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Baker:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), I am writing in support of AB 1399 (Baker), which would increase available resources for victims of domestic violence. Currently, California law allows individuals to contribute amounts in excess of his or her tax liability for the support of specified funds. AB 1399 would allow an individual to indicate that a specified amount in excess of his or her tax liability be transferred to the California Domestic Violence Fund.

Programs helping victims of domestic violence provide essential, life-saving services to victims and their children. Unfortunately, these programs have been significantly underfunded in recent years. On just a single day in 2014, 1,216 requests for services from domestic violence victims went unmet, leaving thousands of individuals, children, and families without a safe place to stay or access to vital counseling and resources. Of those unmet needs, approximately 49% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 37% report that victims become homeless, and 16% report that families end up living in their car.

Since its founding in 1989, CWLC has worked to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. A vital part of our mission is to ensure that women and children have access to resources that protect them from domestic violence.

The California Women's Law Center strongly supports AB 1399, which will ensure funds will go toward meeting the vital needs of victims of domestic violence.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director