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September 8, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 947 (Pan) – Urge Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we are writing to urge your signature on SB 947 (Pan), which would modernize the mandatory interview process for the California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program by giving counties greater flexibility to use telephone and internet technology to complete the interview.

Current law requires a face-to-face interview. This requirement greatly disadvantages low-income families. Some live in rural areas and the expense of travel to the interview can be too great. Others may have parents who are working for low wages and unable to schedule time off for the interview.

Changes have already been implemented for the CalFresh and Medi-cal programs, and an increasing number of interviews are being conducted telephonically. SB 947 will streamline the process for families applying for CalWORKs, making county programs more efficient and allowing children and their families to be better served.

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 their families have access to resources that allow them to thrive.

CWLC strongly urges your signature on SB 947, which would make the CalWORKs program application process more flexible for California's low-income families.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director