**[PRINT ON LETTERHEAD]**

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***Submit all letters by June 14, 2022***

**[DATE]**

The Honorable Mark Stone

Chair, Assembly JudiciaryCommittee

State Capitol, Suite 5740

Sacramento, CA 94249

**RE: SB 1017 (Eggman) - SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Stone,

**[ORGANIZATION]** is pleased to support SB 1017 (Eggman), the Keeping Survivors Housed Act, which will support survivors of violence, including domestic violence, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, elder or dependent adult abuse, and other forms of violent acts by keeping them housed. Too often survivors face evictions and homelessness due to the actions of their abusers. In fact, an ACLU study shows that domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness. This bill is a commonsense solution to housing insecurities that survivors face. By keeping survivors housed, the bill will increase safety for survivors and their children while decreasing the trauma and instability that arise from homelessness.

**[INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION AND WHY IT SUPPORTS SB 1017].**

SB 1017 will strengthen the current eviction protections survivors have under California law. While California has previously established some eviction protections for survivors in the Code of Civil Procedure section 1161.3, several gaps in the law leave survivors at risk and unable to access these protections. This bill will help ensure that survivors are not evicted because of acts of abuse committed against them.

SB 1017 will also clarify that survivors are covered under the eviction protections regardless of whether the person who committed the abuse was also a tenant, if that person no longer lives at the property. This provision eliminates an unintended loophole in the current law.

SB 1017 protects survivors that live with the abusive person from being evicted because of the abuse, by allowing courts to issue a partial eviction, evicting the abusive person but not the survivor.

In addition, the bill will expand coverage of the protections to include survivors with a broader range of violent victimization experiences, and survivors’ immediate family members – bringing California’s eviction protections for survivors in line with California’s early lease termination protections for survivors.

SB 1017 will also expand allowable documentation options to increase survivors’ access to the eviction protections. Because domestic violence, human trafficking, and elder abuse involve deep psychological abuse and manipulation, survivors often do not report their abuse, which decreases access to the protections under current law. To address this, the bill will allow survivors to use any documentation that the court determines reasonably proves the victimization and is acceptable to the court.

The bill will eliminate language in current law which invalidates the eviction protection if the survivor “allows” the abusive person to visit the property. This language does not reflect the complexity of familial crimes and the interpersonal dynamics of survivors and abusers. Namely, abusers are often family members – survivors share deep history, blood, and other relatives, including children with their abusers. Consequently, abusers sometimes return to these homes – to continue holding power and control over their victims or for innocuous reasons like collecting their belongings, or visiting their children. To more accurately reflect the practical realities of survivorship, SB 1017 no longer revokes the eviction protections if the abusive person comes on the property against the tenant’s wishes or comes on the property without disturbing another person at the property.

Lastly, SB 1017 provides survivors and survivors’ household members and immediate family members who terminate their lease early with a cause of action, should the landlord fail to obey the law.

The reality is that without legal protections like SB 1017, survivors of abuse and their children will continue to face the compounded trauma of instability, housing insecurity, and homelessness. For these reasons, **[ORGANIZATION]** is pleased to support SB 1017 and respectfully requests your “Aye” vote.

Sincerely,

**[SIGNATURE]**

**[NAME]**

**[TITLE]**

**[ORGANIZATION]**

CC:

Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, Vice Chair

Assemblymember Richard Bloom

Assemblymember Laurie Davies

Assemblymember Matt Haney

Assemblymember Ash Kalra

Assemblymember Kevin Kiley

Assemblymember Brian Maienschein

Assemblymember Eloise Gomez Reyes

Assemblymember Robert Rivas