

[PLACE ON YOUR ORGANIZATION'S LETTERHEAD]

[DATE]

Governor Edmund G. Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento CA 95814
VIA FAX: (916) 558-3160

Re: Request for Signature - SB 612 (Leno)

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing to express the support of *(insert organization name here)* for Senate Bill 612, which will increase protections for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, elder or dependent abuse, and human trafficking who need to terminate their leases early to ensure their safety.

California law currently allows survivors of domestic violence to break their residential leases with documentation of abuse. However, the documentation is limited to a court-issued protective order or a police report. It is not always feasible or advisable for a survivor of domestic violence or human trafficking to obtain a restraining order or police report. Domestic violence survivors are often reluctant to involve the court system or law enforcement due to the difficulty navigating the court system, fear of retaliation or increased violence by the abuser, or fear of the child welfare system. Immigrant victims may also fear being reported by their abusers to immigration officials for deportation.

Even when survivors do not want to involve the criminal justice system, they are often working with other service providers to address the abuse and increase their safety. SB 612 will expand the permitted documentation to include these professionals, and by doing so will allow more victims to obtain this critical safety protection. Furthermore, SB 612 will ensure that documentation of the abuse remains confidential, providing an important privacy protection for this sensitive information.

Additionally, SB 612 will extend these important protections to victims of human trafficking, recognizing the safety concerns for these survivors.

We respectfully request that you sign SB 612 to ensure survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking have access to these critical protections.

Sincerely,

[name of organization]

Cc: California Partnership to End Domestic Violence via Fax: (916) 444-7165