



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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March 21, 2022
Senator Susan Rubio
1021 O Street, Suite 8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Bill 914 SUPPORT

Dear Senator Rubio:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Senate Bill 914 (Rubio).

Domestic violence is one of the leading drivers of homelessness for women. Nationally, 57% of unhoused women reported domestic violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness. Many survivors of domestic violence flee their dangerous homes with few resources; sometimes, they leave with only the clothes on their back.

Unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness are individuals without children or dependents. Nationally, unaccompanied women comprise nearly a third of all unhoused individuals; statewide, they comprise more than double the number of unhoused youth and veterans combined and double that of unhoused families. These women endure high rates of first-time homelessness, longer spells of homelessness, and higher barriers to accessing stable housing.

Unfortunately, our state's homelessness response does not appropriately consider the needs of these two groups. Due to confidentiality requirements for survivors of domestic violence, victim service providers are prohibited by federal law from entering client-level information into the federal Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or the state's Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS). As a result, data about the number of survivors served, their needs, and program outcomes are not considered when measuring local responses to homelessness.

SB 914 will improve California's response to homelessness by requiring cities, counties, and continuums of care that receive state funding to address homelessness to include domestic violence survivors and unaccompanied women within the vulnerable populations for whom specific system supports are developed. The bill also requires the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to set and measure progress toward goals to prevent and end homelessness for these vulnerable populations.

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By embedding focus on domestic violence survivors and unaccompanied women into local homelessness plans, SB 914 will reduce gender bias and disparities in outcomes in California's response to homelessness. In so doing, this bill will keep California at the forefront of innovative responses to homelessness and domestic violence.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Tamar Tokat in our Legislative Office at 916-442-0668.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gascón", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney