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990 Eddy Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

The Honorable Senator Anna Caballero  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 7, 2025

**Re: Support for AB 379, AB 633, AB 938, AB 923, AB 788 to remediate the legal records of trafficking victims and provide imprisoned women with expanded access and rights.**

Dear Senator Caballero,

On behalf of Catholic Charities San Francisco, I am writing to express my strong support for California Assembly Bill 379, Assembly Bill 633, Assembly Bill 983, Assembly Bill 923, and Assembly Bill 788. These critical pieces of legislation will have a significant impact on many of the 70,000 individuals, families, children, and youth served by Catholic Charities annually in San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo Counties.

- AB 379, AB 633, and AB 938 would help victims of trafficking leave prostitution and clear their criminal records for both adult and minor victims. The US Office of Justice Programs reported that 90 percent of trafficking victims and survivors had at least 1 criminal arrest, with half of those arrests linked to trafficking-related activities.<sup>1</sup> Trafficking victims have indicated that past criminal records regularly prevented them from obtaining employment, educational and professional opportunities, secure housing, and financial freedom.<sup>2</sup>
- AB 788 and AB 923 make critical revisions to the rights of incarcerated women in California by creating a Division of Female Programs and Services and offering incarcerated pregnant and post-partum mothers more options for managing their child's first year of life. Research indicates that programs designed to promote bonding between inmates and their babies have led to better health outcomes for the child and lower maternal recidivism and reoffending rates.<sup>3,4</sup>

Catholic Charities San Francisco is deeply committed to supporting individuals impacted by the criminal legal system, including those with prior convictions. Through programs like Carmelita Women's Home, we provide transitional housing for up to ten formerly incarcerated women at a time, offering trauma-informed care, peer support, and services that facilitate successful reintegration. Our social justice advocacy emphasizes the importance of fair housing practices and removing systemic obstacles that disproportionately affect Black, Latinx, and previously incarcerated populations. By advocating for housing-first policies and equitable access

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/workable-solutions-criminal-record-relief-recommendations>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/workable-solutions-criminal-record-relief-recommendations>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bu.edu/writingprogram/journal/past-issues/issue-9/johnson/>

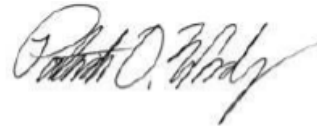
<sup>4</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39616402/>

to supportive housing, we work to ensure that clients with conviction histories receive a fair opportunity to rebuild stable, sustaining lives.

Kind regards,



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Patrick Woody  
Chair, Public Interest Board Committee  
Catholic Charities

cc: The Honorable Maggy Krell, Author, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Mia Bonta, Author, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, Author, California State Assembly  
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:  
The Honorable Kelly Seyarto, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon  
The Honorable Megan Dahle  
The Honorable Tim Grayson  
The Honorable Laura Richardson  
The Honorable Aisha Wahab