



State of California

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Milton Marks Commission on California State Government
Organization and Economy

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March 9, 2021

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
State Capitol, Room 4140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 628

Dear Assemblymember Garcia,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 628, the measure you authored that would expand the Removing Barriers to Employment Act to include persons who are at risk of committing violence or are at risk of intimate partner violence on the list of those eligible to receive grant funding.

In its recent report, *Beyond the Crisis: A Long-Term Approach to Reduce, Prevent, and Recover from Intimate Partner Violence*, the Commission found that survivors of intimate partner violence often face numerous barriers to establishing economic independence away from their abuser. The Removing Barriers to Employment Act, however, does not explicitly identify victims of this cruel violence as a target population eligible for funding. While some survivors are eligible for services under the grant because they belong to other categories of target populations, the Act does not specifically identify them as a target population. Given that one in three women and one in four men in California endure intimate partner violence, this seems a striking omission. To remedy this, the Commission recommended the Legislature expand the Act to explicitly include victims of domestic violence.

AB 628 would carry out this recommendation. For this reason, the Little Hoover Commission supports this bill. If I, the Commission, or our staff can provide any further assistance as this proposal moves through the legislative process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Chairman

C: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission