



State of California

925 L Street, Suite 805
Sacramento, CA 95814

phone: (916) 445-2125

Milton Marks Commission on California State Government
Organization and Economy

website: www.lhc.ca.gov

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
State Capitol, Room 3056
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 720

Dear Senator Ochoa Bogh,

The Little Hoover Commission supports SB 720, the measure you authored that would enable recipients of grant funding awarded pursuant to California Penal Code §13823.15 to receive the entirety of the state's portion of the grant funding in a single disbursement at the beginning of the grant period.

In its 2020 report, *Intimate Partner Violence: Getting the Money to Those on the Front Line*, the Commission found that organizations funded through the state's Domestic Violence Assistance Program face severe financial challenges as they wait 79 to 109 days to be reimbursed for services provided to survivors of intimate partner violence. Many of these service providers – which tend to be nonprofits operating on tight budgets – rely on lines of credit or reduce services to cover expenses until reimbursement checks arrive. Others leave grant money unspent or avoid applying for it in the first place. To ensure these service providers have the resources they need to help some of the most vulnerable Californians, the Commission recommended that they receive the entirety of the state's portion of grant funding at the beginning of the grant period instead of reimbursements.

SB 720 would carry out this recommendation and better help those on the front line serve and support survivors of intimate partner violence. For this reason, the Little Hoover Commission supports SB 720. 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