**Sample Support Letter for AB 2100 (Bonta)**

<Insert Date>

Assemblymember Rob Bonta

P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0018

**RE: AB 2100 (BONTA): SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

On behalf of <insert organization name>, I am writing to express our strong support for AB 2100, which continues and improves support for victims of crime as laid out in SB 1324. This bill supports physical and emotional recovery for Californians injured by gun or other violence, through the Crime Victims Compensation Fund, to include services provided by community violence peer counselors, sometimes called Intervention Specialists or Violence Prevention Professionals. The Victim’s Compensation Program is the largest source of victim’s benefits in California. The California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) offers benefits to a wide range of victims and AB 2100 strengthens the system.

<Insert paragraph about your organization>

Victim’s Compensation funds are intended to be available for vulnerable individuals, especially people who experience violence. One way to address the shortcomings of CalVCB is to ensure that programs providing culturally appropriate peer counseling to victims of violent crime are able to request reimbursement. AB 2100 would remove the sunset provision established pursuant to SB 1324 (Hancock) to continue reimbursements for peer counseling services to crime victims under CalVCB. Additionally, it would:

* Expand victim compensation benefits to people on parole and probation, because system-impacted victim also need support in their recovery from trauma;
* Extend the period limit of service to ensure victims have ample time to work through issues that may arise as a result of their trauma; and
* Remove the $15 reimbursement per session limit set in the law and instead tie the Peer Counselor reimbursement rate to the rates set by CalVCB for licensed mental health professionals.

This funding provides vital resources to programs around the state that are providing these much-needed services. AB 2100 encourages a Trauma Informed approach that recognizes victims of violent crime need opportunities to heal in culturally appropriate ways. This legislation ensures communities impacted by violence can continue to receive much-needed counseling from trusted sources.

We are proud to support AB 2100.

Sincerely,

<signature>

<*Please send back to Office of Assemblymember Bonta>*

*graham.drake@asm.ca.gov**; Fax at (916) 319-2118*