



August 12, 2016

Senator Loni Hancock
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT: SB 1324 (Extend Violence Peer Counselor Sunset Provision)

Dear Senator Hancock,

We are five programs that are members of a network of programs that serve victims of crime with proven violence intervention strategies. This is important work that helps people navigate the healing process and reduces retaliatory violence. Senate Bill 1324 supports that mission by extending the sunset on previous legislation.

In September 2014, AB 1629 was chaptered. It extended the reimbursement for peer counseling provided for domestic violence to include counselors who work with victims of community violence. It supports physical and emotional recovery for Californians injured by gun or other violence, through the Crime Victims Compensation Program (CaVCP).

Because this was a new extension, the bill had a sunset in order to examine its impact; however, it wasn't fully implemented because the infrastructure needed to support it had to be created. The infrastructure, including the training curriculum and billing process with CaVCP, is now established but the law cannot be implemented as intended without an extension. Please extend the sunset for three years so that we can evaluate its success for people in need of the services we provide.

The counseling provided by these programs – like Los Angeles Caught in the Crossfire, San Francisco Wraparound Project, Richmond Restorative Pathways Program, Sacramento Violence Intervention Program, and Oakland's Youth ALIVE! – provides critical support to the victims who need it.

Please extend the sunset on this critical legislation through SB 1324.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Steering Committee Chair
The National Network of Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs (NNHVIP)

On behalf of:

*RYSE Center, Richmond, CA
San Francisco Wraparound, San Francisco, CA
Soledad Enrichment Action- Caught in the Crossfire, Los Angeles, CA
Youth ALIVE!, Oakland, CA
WellSpace Health, Sacramento, CA*

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