



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

September 29, 2017

Governor Jerry Brown
Office of the Governor
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 1312 (Gonzalez Fletcher) – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

The San Diego City Attorney's Office supports AB 1312 (Gonzalez Fletcher). The bill would expand the protections and services granted to victims of sexual assault and help ensure increased access to the legal system.

Currently in California, there are an estimated 2 million female victims of rape and 5.6 million female victims of other sexual violence. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, most sexual assault victims do not receive treatment for their injustices and do not report the assault to the police. Those survivors who do report these assaults often find it difficult to navigate the complex medical and legal systems due to lack of clear information or an unfulfilled need for extra accommodation. When faced with an invasive, burdensome or frightening process, many sexual assault victims may decide against seeking justice by reporting the assault.

This bill would, among other things: require agencies to test rape kits; grant survivors of sexual assault the right to request the presence of a person of a certain gender during interviews; require the development of a card outlining the rights of sexual assault victims and available resources; prohibit law enforcement agencies from disposing of or destroying a rape kit for at least 20 years; establish the victim's right to a free copy of the initial crime report on the sexual assault; and establish the right of a victim to free post-assault contraception.

These additional rights for victims and clear distribution of relevant and information will make the process easier for survivors and be more mindful of their needs. Ultimately, this bill is designed to codify important additional rights for survivors, educate survivors of sexual assault of their rights and the resources available to them, and to hold law enforcement accountable to granting justice for the victim.

For these reasons, the San Diego City Attorney's Office supports AB 1312.

Sincerely yours,

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

MWE:vj

cc: Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, District 80