



April 19, 2017

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 421 (Wiener) - Sponsor

Dear Senator Wiener:

On behalf of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, I am pleased to share our support and sponsorship of SB 421. This bill will establish a three tiered sex offender registration system for California. California is currently one of only four states that has a life time registration systems for sex offenders. Research shows that such untailored and blanketed systems have many negative outcomes and likely make communities less safe.

CALCASA works to ensure that treatment strategies for those who have committed sexual offenses are informed by the realities and needs of the victims. Research indicates that most sexual offenses are committed by someone the victim knows — either a family member, friend, intimate partner, or acquaintance. We believe that the resources currently allocated to managing lifetime registrants could be more effectively used by focusing on those at the greatest risk to reoffend. We support the needs of all survivors, while targeting interventions to those who do harm in a meaningful way.

As the professional association for the 84 rape crisis center programs that serve all of California, CALCASA works to develop and support legislative and systems policy change that benefit survivors and increase the capacity of institutions, community partners, organizations and business to respond to and prevent sexual assault. SB 421 would better focus resources on those most at risk of re-offending, provide for scaled accountability and hope for persons to better re-integrate into society. We know that the current sex offender registry does not improve safety for survivors of violence and often undermines the rehabilitation and reintegration of those who have harmed.

SB 421 would establish 10 year, 20 year and lifetime tiers based on the convicted crime and risk assessment. We believe this a meaningful improvement in the handling of sexual assault offenders and provides for a more tailored approach to monitoring and assessment of risk. For these reasons, CALCASA is pleased to support and sponsor SB 421.

Sincerely,

Sandra Henriquez, Chief Executive Officer
California Coalition Against Sexual Assault