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California Civil Liberties Advocacy
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April 15, 2019

Senator Scott Wiener
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: SB 132: Transgender Respect, Agency and Dignity Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the members of the California Civil Liberties Advocacy, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 132, the Transgender Recognition, Agency, and Dignity (RAD) Act, which would require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to classify and house transgender people in its custody based on their gender identity rather than their birth-assigned gender.

Housing incarcerated transgender people based on their gender identity or perception of health and safety would ensure that we respect their dignity and enhance their safety while serving their sentences. The Supreme Court affirmed that incarcerated transgender people who are housed according to their birth-assigned gender rather than on their gender identity poses significant risk like physical violence, verbal abuse, sexual assault and rape. It is time for California to implement an Act to protect the legal rights of transgender people in our prison system, like the State of Connecticut has already done.

For all these reasons, California Civil Liberties Advocacy strongly supports Senate Bill 132 and thanks you for bringing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Joy Hyatt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Joy Hyatt
Legislative Advocate
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