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April 15, 2019

Senator Steven M. Glazer  
State Capitol, Room 5108  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 678 (Glazer) – Restorative Justice Pilot Program - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Glazer,

On behalf of the members of the California Civil Liberties Advocacy, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 678, which would create a 5-year Restorative Justice Pilot Program (RJPP) in three counties as an alternative to incarceration, along with traditional victim-service programs. This program would provide healing for the victims/survivors as well as other stakeholders in a particular offense, by having the defendant come face-to-face with the victim and acknowledge the harm they have caused.

Studies have shown that participants of restorative processes consistently express 80 to 90 percent satisfaction with criminal justice system after the successful process.<sup>i</sup> Practicing this restorative justice program would be beneficial in the long run because it decreases incarceration rates and thus saves the States and local agencies from financial burdens, reduces recidivism of offenders, increases completion of restitution agreements, and reduces court loads.<sup>ii</sup> We believe that restorative justice would repair harm and restore losses that would allow responsible parties to face and take responsibility for their actions. This program would also ensure that survivors are being assisted in moving forward, help with the healing process, and develop strategies to cope from traumatic experiences.

For all these reasons, California Civil Liberties Advocacy strongly supports Senate Bill 678 and thanks you for bringing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

*Mary Joy Hyatt*

Mary Joy Hyatt

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<sup>i</sup> Latimer, J., Dowden, C., & Muise, D. (2005). The effectiveness of restorative justice practices: A meta-analysis. *The Prison Journal*, 85, 127-144.

<sup>ii</sup> Umbreit, M. S., Vos, B., Coates, R. B., & Lightfoot, E. (2005). Restorative justice in the twenty-first century: A social movement full of opportunities and pitfalls. *Marquette Law Review*, 89, 251-304.