Send this letter via email to Melissa.Immel@gov.ca.gov; jessica.devencenzi@gov.ca.gov and BCC me or let me know separately when you’ve sent yours: krista@cpedv.org

[ORGANIZATION LETTERHEAD]

[DATE]

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Reassessment of Funds for Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention in Budget Process**

Dear Governor Newsom,

[INTRODUCTION – INCLUDE POSITION, ORGANIZATION, LOCATION, and DESCRIPTION]

Through a communication from the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services on Monday, June 1, 2020, we were made aware that one-time current year investments, including the FY2019 funds for the **Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention (SD) Program**, were being reassessed through the May Revise budget process. As a social service program that relies on government funding to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault <adjust to fit your organization> in our communities, we recognize the difficult budget situation that California has entered due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, with a severe drop in economic activity having a devastating impact on anticipated revenues. However, we also must stress the immediate and urgent need of funding for programs that address sexual and domestic violence, and must voice our **strong opposition** to any efforts to roll back state funding on these issues.

With [X] years of experience providing services to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence <adjust to fit your organization> in [NAME] County, we do not lightly say that the need to support programs that prevent violence has never been greater. As Californians comply with statewide stay-at-home orders, and many suffer from job loss, economic anxiety, housing instability, and confinement to abusive home environments, we are witnessing a sharp increase in the risk factors associated with domestic violence and sexual abuse. We must be prepared to address the astronomical costs and toxic conditions that will accompany increased domestic and sexual violence in the aftermath of this crisis.
[INSERT TESTIMONY ON IMPACT OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS].

Additionally, this news of potential cuts comes at a time when we are already struggling to provide services to survivors during this public health crisis. Like many across the state, we cannot afford to further reduce the critical services we provide to Californians, and reclaiming the small amount of state funding we have been able to receive in recent budget years is an unacceptable strategy.
[INSERT TESTIMONY ON FINANCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19]

We hope you will consider this important feedback as the budget process moves forward. This funding is critical to the health of all Californians, and cannot be revoked – now, more than ever.

Sincerely,

[OFFICIAL SIGNATURE]

[NAME]
[TITLE, AGENCY]