Sample Support Letter – AB 294 (LACKEY)

[Must Be On Letterhead]

[Assemblymember.lackey@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.lackey@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.bonta@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.bonta@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.chiu@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.mayes@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.hernandez@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.calderon@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.nazarian@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.nazarian@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.burke@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.burke@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.chavez@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.chavez@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.gomez@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.burke@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.ridley-thomas@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.ridley-thomas@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.rodriguez@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.rodriguez@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.santiago@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.santiago@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.steinorth@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.steinorth@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.thurmond@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.thurmond@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.waldron@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.waldron@assembly.ca.gov)

[Assemblymember.wood@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.wood@assembly.ca.gov)

Tim.townsend@asm.ca.gov

[roger.dunston@asm.ca.gov](mailto:roger.dunston@asm.ca.gov)

[Kevin.aslanian@ccwro.org](mailto:Kevin.aslanian@ccwro.org)

[Mary.bellamy@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.bellamy@asm.ca.gov)

[csend@cwda.org](mailto:csend@cwda.org)

[Patricia.Huston@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Patricia.Huston@dss.ca.gov)

Date:

The Honorable Rob Bonta, Chair

State Assembly Health Committee

100 Capitol Mall, State Capitol Building, Room 6005

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Bonta:

[Name of Your Organization] supports AB294 authored by Assembly Member Lackey, which would require health and human services state plans and waivers approved by the federal government be posted on the front page of the applicable department.

State of California operates numerous health and human services programs that require the State of California to submit a “State Plan” to operate the program. The State also receives numerous waivers from the federal government. These plans and waivers are not readily accessible to the public in that they are rarely placed on the web page of the single state agency responsible for the administration of the program. There are state plans for Medicaid, ACA, SNAP (also known as Food Stamps or CalFresh) TANF also known as CalWORKs, Child Care, Dept. of Rehabilitation plans, and others that are not known to the general public.

Current law does not require that any state plan or waiver be available to the public by placing this information on the web page. The public has to submit a Public Records Act request in order to get this public information.

This bill would make California’s state plans and waivers readily accessible to the public to enhance government transparency.

Optional: Include 2 sentences about why your organization cares.

[Name of Your Organization] strongly supports AB 294 and asks for your “yea” vote.

Sincerely

**AUTHOR STATEMENT**

Members. This is a Health and Human Services Transparency act of 2015 to make government more accessible to the public.

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The State also receives numerous waivers from the federal government. These plans and waivers are not readily accessible to the public in that they are rarely placed on the web page of the single state agency responsible for the administration of the program.

This bill would require that all state plans and waivers approved by the federal government be posted on the front page of the Departments’ web page.

The bill is sponsored by the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations and I have Executive Director, Kevin Aslanian with me in support of the bill.

I ask for an “aye” vote.

DATE:

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly

Re: Co-author request – AB - Health & Human Services Transparency Act of 2015

Please join me in co-authoring Assembly Bill XX . This measure provides for transparency of “state plan” and “waiver” documents approved by the federal government to be posted on the front page of the applicable department’s web page.

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In summary, this bill would require that all state plans and waivers approved by the federal government be posted on the front page of the Departments’ web page to maximize government transparency.

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Attached you will find a fact sheet for additional background. Should you have any questions please feel free to call Tim Townsend, Legislative Aide, Office of Assembly Member Tom Lackey, at (916) 319-2036 or Kevin Aslanian of the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organization, Sponsor of AB XX. Please return to State Capitol Building, Room 4009 or fax to 916-319-2136.

\_\_ Yes, I would like to co-author AB , Health & Human Services Transparency Act of 2015

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Assembly Member Assembly Member Signature

DATE:

TO: Honorable Senators

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Senator Name Senator Signature