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ASSEMBLYWOMAN WENDY CARRILLO LEADS INITIATIVE TO FIND AND COMPENSATE SURVIVORS OF UNKNOWN / FORCED STERILIZATION AT LA COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL

LOS ANGELES (March 17, 2023) — Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles) announced the launch of a major state initiative to find and compensate survivors of unknown or forced sterilization at LA County General Hospital, ushering in a major step in rectifying one of the worst injustices in California’s history. The California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) selected Alliance for a Better Community to conduct research and support outreach efforts to survivors.

As the author of AB 1007 (2021), which created the California Forced or Involuntary Sterilized Compensation Program, **Assemblywoman Carrillo championed the additional investment of \$300,000 to assist the California Victims Compensation Program and the Alliance for a Better Community in finding the mostly Spanish speaking, immigrant women who gave birth at LA County General Hospital and were sterilized without consent between the late 1960’s to early 1970’s.**

“Defending a woman’s right to choose has always been a cornerstone of my advocacy, and fundamental to that belief is that all people should have the right to decide whether or not to become a parent,” **said Assemblywoman Carrillo.** “Despite not being a state-run facility, LA County General Hospital followed what was then California’s eugenics laws, which gave medical personnel the power to decide whether individuals could reproduce. The reprehensible practices that took place left an indelible mark on the lives of countless women, permanently depriving them of their right to have children, and robbed of their autonomy over their own bodies. The documentary "No Mas Bebés" brings to light the heart-wrenching stories of these women, who were subjected to such heinous violations of their basic human rights. It is a

powerful reminder of the grave injustices that can be committed when the state fails to protect its citizens. As California finally sets out to rectify these horrific injustices, it is essential that we ensure that all necessary steps are being taken to find and compensate survivors.”

“The disproportionate effect this had on women of color must be acknowledged, and it is imperative that the state government spares no effort in finding every living survivor. Recognizing that finding and providing compensation to the victims of these laws is just the first step in addressing the wrongs that have been inflicted upon them, I am proud to mark this as a significant milestone, as California continues to lead by example on reproductive justice.”

“Creating an equitable and comprehensive healthcare system is imperative, and this includes recognizing and addressing the forced sterilizations on predominantly women and people of color endured at LAC+USC Medical Center with a significant proportion of victims being Latinx.” **said LAC+USC Medical Center CEO Jorge Orozco.** “Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo's leadership in establishing a task force to examine the devastating effects of forced sterilization in Los Angeles County is commendable. While financial reparations cannot fully account for the immense suffering endured by these women, it can help alleviate any financial burdens they may face.”

“I am confident that the collaboration between Los Angeles County and the State will result in meaningful reparations for the women who were impacted by forced sterilizations at the historic General Hospital,” **said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District.** “This will by no means make up for the terrible atrocities that were committed against them, but it is a step in the right direction. Please know that we are committed to making this right, however, we can.”

“We are thankful for Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo’s prioritization and leadership in launching the Forced and Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Task Force. It is a critical step toward recognizing the atrocities committed against our already marginalized communities by addressing the generational impacts of racist policies on families,” **said Alliance for a Better Community Executive Director Vanessa Aramayo.** “By providing compensation and acknowledging this cruelty, California attempts to atone for unfathomable harm and ensure that such violations of bodily autonomy never happen again. Alliance for a Better Community is proud to collaborate with Assemblywoman Carrillo as we stand in solidarity with survivors.”

With the Legislature providing \$300,000 to do statewide outreach to survivors of forced sterilization, ongoing outreach efforts and social media campaigns by the California Victims

Compensation Board (CalVCB) are underway. Upon executing a contract with JP Marketing of Fresno, CalVCB has launched a coordinated social media campaign with the aim to reach eligible applicants directly with radio and TV advertisements in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area and the Greater Sacramento area, which will run through October of 2023. According to CalVCB, the media strategy intends to use social media to reach people who have contact with survivors, and radio and TV to reach the survivors themselves. Additionally, CalVCB is utilizing Alliance for a Better Community in research and survivor outreach support.

According to the California Victims' Compensation Board, The California State Legislature approved \$4.5 million for compensation to survivors of forced or involuntary sterilization as part of AB 1007. This amount will be divided equally among the number of claimants who qualify for compensation. Once CalVCB determines a claimant is eligible, an initial payment will be sent within 60 days. After initial compensation for all qualified recipients has been provided, remaining funds, if they are available, will be disbursed equally among all recipients.

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Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo was elected to the California State Assembly in December 2017. She represents the 52nd District of California, encompassing large parts of East and North Los Angeles. She has served as the Chair of Budget Sub-Committee #4 on State Administration, and a member of the Appropriations, Health, Housing and Community Development, and Utilities and Energy Committees, as well as Chair of the Select Committee on Latina Inequities.