**Please send a support letter – On your letter head**

Sample Support Letter – AB 236 (Maienschein)

Please Send to: Irene.Frausto@asm.ca.gov or By Fax To: (916) 319-2189

Please send email copy to: rachel.simons@asm.ca.gov; Jbartholow@wclp.org; csend@cwda.org; kevin.aslanian@ccwro.org

Date \_\_\_\_ [Please Consider Sending By March 28, 2017]

Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, Chair

Human Services Committee, California State Assembly

State Capitol, Room 5175

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 236 (Maienschein) – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairperson Rubio,

[Name of Your Organization] is writing in support of AB 236 (Maienschein), which increases options for our state’s poorest families while improving administration of the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program. The purpose of CalWORKs temporary housing assistance program is to enable homeless families, including children, to stay off of the street and more quickly secure permanent housing. AB 236 strengthens the ability of the program to achieve that goal.

Under current law, families who are homeless can receive temporary shelter assistance for a period of 16 days in a 12-month period, but only if these days are consecutive. Additionally, the daily caps placed on the amount of assistance is inadequate to find housing for these vulnerable families. These limitations undermine the success of the CalWORKs homeless assistance program and makes it more difficult for the program to achieve its purpose of reducing homelessness for families.

AB 236 would increase options for our state’s poorest families while also improving the effectiveness of the CalWORKs program, by: (1) removing the consecutive days requirement and allow families to receive 16 total days of temporary housing assistance per year (32 days in cases of documented domestic violence); increasing the nightly voucher amount from $65 to $85 for a family of 4 and the daily maximum from $125 to $145 to increase the ability to find adequate housing for families; and clarifying that a family that is reunifying following an intervention by child protective services can also be eligible for temporary housing assistance.

For these reasons, [Name of Your Organization] supports AB 236 and urges your ‘aye’ vote.

Sincerely,

Your Name and Title

cc: The Honorable Brian Maienschein

Members of the Assembly Human Services Committee

County Welfare Directors Association of California, Western Center on Law and Poverty and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations (Co-Sponsors).