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

Sample Support Letter – AB 236 (Maienschein)

Please send to: mark.teemer@sen.ca.gov and joe.parra@sen.ca.gov

Please send email copy to: carli.olson@asm.ca.gov; Marilyn.limon@asm.ca.gov; Jbartholow@wclp.org; csend@cwda.org; kevin.aslanian@ccwro.org

Date \_\_\_\_ [Please Consider Sending By June 6, 2017]

Senator Scott Wiener, Chair

Human Services Committee, California State Senate

State Capitol, Room 4066

Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Chairperson Wiener,

[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. This limitation undermines 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 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). The bill also would clarify that an otherwise CalWORKs-eligible family that is reunifying with a child in foster care 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

 The Honorable Miguel Santiago

Members of the Senate 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).