Please put on your organizational letterhead and add signature. Feel free incorporate information about your organization and your reasons for supporting the bill. Please submit your letter to sadalia.king@sen.ca.gov AND  sjud.fax@sen.ca.gov AND Timothy.Griffiths@sen.ca.gov AND nameanddignityact@gmail.com. Deadline for submission is COB Wednesday, April 12th @ 5 PM.

[DATE]

The Honorable Toni Atkins

State Capitol, Room 4072

Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**RE: SB 310 (Atkins) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Atkins,

[INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] is pleased to support the amended SB 310 (Atkins), the Name and Dignity Act for Incarcerated Transgender People, which would ease the reentry process for transgender people re-entering the community after being incarcerated as well as provide transgender prisoners with basic dignity and respect while incarcerated. The amended SB 310 includes that “A person under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall provide a copy of the petition for a name change to the department, in a manner prescribed by the department, at the time the petition is filed.*”* [INSERT SENTENCE/PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION AND WHY YOU SUPPORT SB 310].

Under existing law, an incarcerated transgender person seeking a name and gender change court order must first obtain approval from the warden of their facility and then the approval of the Division of Adult Institutions Regional Administrator as well as a Corrections Case Manager before filing a petition with the court. This belabored process almost always results in either a denial or with no response from corrections officials.

Transgender people face extreme difficulties when they reenter society when their gender presentation does not match their identification documents, including employment, housing, healthcare and government subsidies. A significant number of transgender people have reported verbal harassment, denial of benefits or services, being asked to leave, or being assaulted after presenting identification documents that do not match their gender identity.

SB 310 establishes the right of people imprisoned in state or county facilities to obtain a name or gender change. It also requires CDCR and county jails to use the new name of a person who obtains a name change, and to refer to the prior name as an alias.

Ensuring that incarcerated transgender people have access the name and gender change court process and ensuring that they are referred to by their new name and gender provides a baseline of dignity and respect for prisoners while they are incarcerated and will help ensure their successful reentry into society.

For these reasons, we support SB 310 and your effort to support incarcerated transgender people’s dignity and well-being.

Sincerely,

[INSERT SIGNATURE AND TITLE]