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Governor Signs Domestic Violence Fee Bill, Increases Revenue for Life-Saving Services

Sacramento, September 26, 2012—On Monday Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 2094 (Butler) into law. The bill had passed through the legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support, and the new law will ensure that domestic violence organizations get the revenue from fees they are entitled to under the law.

AB 2094 closes loopholes in existing law that can prevent California communities from collecting the fines and fees that are assessed against people convicted of domestic violence crimes. Specifically, it increases the minimum domestic violence fee from \$400 to \$500, and requires that the Court document its reasons for any instances when this fee is reduced or waived.

Data from a State audit showed that over time there has been a marked decrease in the fines assessed against perpetrators. Counties are not consistently assessing the minimum fine, and in many instances fees are being reduced or waived entirely. This means that local domestic violence agencies are being denied vital resources to support their crucial public safety work.

Two-thirds of the fees collected are allocated to local domestic violence service providers to support essential services including emergency shelter, 24-hour hotlines, and support for victims fleeing violence. In just one day in 2011, 5,363 victims and children were served by California domestic violence programs; however, due to lack of resources 924 requests for services went unmet. The additional revenue that will result from the new law is sorely needed.

Tara Shabazz, executive director of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership), commended the governor for supporting victim services statewide.

“We thank Governor Brown on behalf of our statewide membership,” she said. “This new law will increase victim services and batterer accountability. We commend the governor for his leadership.”

The Partnership and its statewide allies thank Governor Brown for signing AB 2094 and protecting the safety of California families.

About the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership) is California’s statewide domestic violence coalition, with organizational and individual members across the state. Working at the local, state and national levels for nearly 30 years, the Partnership has a long track record of successfully passing over 100 pieces of legislation on behalf of domestic violence victims and their children. The Partnership believes that by sharing expertise, advocates and legislators can end domestic violence. Every day we

inspire, inform and connect all those concerned with this issue, because together we're stronger. With offices in Sacramento, the Partnership's member programs span the entire state.

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