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**Sen. Susan Rubio's Landmark Legislation Serves Most Vulnerable Homeless Populations**

**LOS ANGELES, CA** – The Downtown Women's Center (DWC), Rainbow Services, and the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence applaud Senator Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) for her leadership and determination to ensure the passage of landmark legislation that will help domestic violence survivors, unaccompanied women, and transgendered individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

Senate Bill 914, the Homeless Equity for Left Behind Populations (HELP) Act requires cities, counties, and continuums of care that receive state funding to address homelessness to provide services to domestic violence survivors and unaccompanied women in vulnerable populations. The bill will also require the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to set and measure progress towards goals to prevent and end homelessness for these vulnerable populations.

"As a co-sponsor of this legislation, the Downtown Women's Center is grateful to Senator Rubio for her tireless work in passing the HELP Act. This is a critical and necessary step in ensuring our state's most vulnerable populations are not neglected when addressing homelessness," said Amy Turk, C.E.O. of the Downtown Women's Center. "The Downtown Women's Center has been at the forefront of addressing women's homelessness in Los Angeles for over 40 years. This bill will support our mission to house every woman in our city and increase access to wraparound services that keep them housed."

"The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence is grateful for Senator Rubio's support of the HELP Act," said Christine Smith, Public Policy Coordinator for the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. "40 percent of California women experience physical intimate partner violence. We've been working with individuals who've experienced domestic violence and know that to house this vulnerable population and help them move forward, resources and services must be tailored to meet their specific needs. This legislation prioritizes the well-being of these vulnerable communities and will help California better tackle the homeless crisis."

“We are proud to have co-sponsored Senator Rubio’s groundbreaking piece of legislation that addresses the often-neglected needs of survivors of domestic violence and unaccompanied women facing homelessness,” said Tatiana Doorman, Director of Community Engagement for Rainbow Services. “Senator Rubio’s hard work on SB914 shows her ongoing commitment to individuals who most need our support.”

“Every person experiencing homelessness has unique needs, and the needs of domestic violence survivors, unaccompanied women, and transgendered individuals often go unaddressed,” said Senator Rubio. “I want to thank my co-sponsors for all their work in serving the most vulnerable populations. With the passage of this landmark legislation, services provided across our state will be more aligned and effective in addressing their needs.”

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