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DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CENTER CELEBRATES PASSAGE OF SB 914 HELP ACT WITH SENATOR SUSAN RUBIO AND COALITION OF CO-SPONSORS

October Marks Domestic Awareness Month Bringing Attention to the Most Vulnerable Populations

Los Angeles, Calif. (October 27, 2022) – Downtown Women's Center (DWC) CEO Amy Turk, Senator Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park), and co-sponsors of the Senator's landmark SB 914 celebrated the passage of the HELP Act and discussed the significant impact it will have on one of the city's most vulnerable populations on Thursday at DWC's headquarters. Krista Colón, Public Policy Director, California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, Carielle V. Escalante, Associate Director of Community Housing, Rainbow Services joined Rubio and Turk to discuss the significance of the HELP Act and the impact it will have on domestic violence survivors.

"For more than 40 years, DWC's mission has been to house every woman experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles. The passage of the HELP Act is a critical first step in ensuring women are not overlooked," said Amy Turk, C.E.O. of DWC. "It's critical that we have more housing and resources to ensure women and vulnerable populations can access the services they need to build a foundation for their future."

The HELP Act will provide much-needed support to the city's domestic violence survivors, unaccompanied women, and transgendered individuals. It requires cities, counties, and continuums of care that receive state funding to address homelessness and provide services critical resources to these vulnerable populations.

"The HELP Act makes California a national leader by including gender equity in homelessness responses," said Senator Rubio. "I want to thank my co-sponsors and advocates for their amazing work in serving our most vulnerable populations and for their steadfast support in passing this landmark bill. As our state and local governments continue to work toward ending the homeless crisis, we must make sure that we do not leave any part of the homeless population behind. Domestic violence services for individuals experiencing homelessness have been grossly underfunded, and the HELP Act is needed to help these and other vulnerable populations and focus on their unique needs."

"The HELP Act will ensure state and local governments move forward in creating an intersectional system to address homelessness that is gender-inclusive, said Krista Colón Public Policy Director California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. "This important law creates pathways to housing stability and healing for survivors of domestic violence and their families."

"By passing the HELP Act, California will be adopting a powerful gender equity lens in its efforts to end homelessness, said Carielle V. Escalante, Associate Director of Community Housing, Rainbow Services. "We look forward to seeing the implementation phase of this historic legislation and on behalf of

Rainbow Services, we want to thank Senator Rubio for always being a champion for survivors."

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