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February 24, 2017

The Honorable Kevin de León
Senate President pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Lambda Legal Supports SB 54 (de León)

Dear Senate President pro Tempore de León:

I write on behalf of Lambda Legal in strong support of SB 54 (de León), the California Values Act, which protects the safety and well-being of all Californians by providing that state and local resources may not be used to fuel mass deportations and separate California families.

Lambda Legal is the nation's oldest and largest legal organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and those living with HIV through impact litigation, policy advocacy and public education. Through our Western Regional Office in Los Angeles, Lambda Legal has worked to secure safe, nondiscriminatory conditions for LGBT and HIV-positive Californians, including those who are immigrants, for nearly twenty-five years.

SB 54 safeguards our communities by requiring that California's police departments, schools, state health facilities, and courthouses remain accessible to people from all walks of life. It guards against abusive policing practices by forbidding state and local law enforcement agencies and school police and security departments from engaging in immigration enforcement. It also protects critical state and local public safety resources from being diverted to immigration enforcement purposes without court authorization. Other provisions of SB 54 aim to keep state services available to everyone, regardless of immigration status, by requiring review and updating as appropriate of state agency confidentiality policies. These protections will provide greater security for vulnerable immigrant members of our communities, while also making an important statement of California Values: diversity, inclusion, equality and respect.

For these reasons, Lambda Legal strongly supports SB 54 and appreciates your leadership on this matter.

Very respectfully yours,

Jennifer C. Pizer

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Law and Policy Director