



Catholic Charities

MARIN ♦ SAN FRANCISCO ♦ SAN MATEO

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July 25, 2019

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Pat Bates, Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Toni Atkins, Senate President pro Tem
Senator Bob Hertzberg, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Steven Bradford
Senator Maria Elena Durazo
Senator Jerry Hill
Senator Brian W. Jones
Senator Bob Wieckowski

California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1548 (Gabriel): California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program- SUPPORT

Dear Senators,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, employees and clients of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, I am writing in support of legislation that will address the alarming rise of anti-immigrant, anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim rhetoric and hate-motivated crime that has been taking place in California in recent years.

It is critical that you vote to pass AB 1548 out of the Senate Appropriations Suspense File. The increase in hate motivated violence and the shocking increase in the number of hate groups has made improving security at nonprofit institutions serving other at-risk communities, an urgent priority. This bill will help nonprofit organizations, including but not limited to African Americans, Latinos, Muslims, LGBTQ groups, Sikhs, Asian Americans, immigrants, individuals with disabilities and private nonprofit schools. AB 1548 is urgently needed to provide grant funding for religious and at-risk institutions to strengthen their security and infrastructure.

Racism and violence have been a dangerous reality for too long across our nation and in our local communities. Hatred and bigotry are contrary to our values. Catholic Charities believes every person is worthy of dignity, love, and respect.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Jilma Meneses
Chief Executive Officer