

DATE:
March 26, 2025

Dear Senator Grove,

On behalf of Woman II Woman, I am writing as the sponsor in support of Senate Bill 311. As an organization led by and serving incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women, we understand first-hand the urgent need to preserve safety, dignity, and trauma-informed housing policies for biological women in California's correctional institutions.

SB 311 offers a compassionate and necessary approach to addressing the growing concern among incarcerated women regarding safety and privacy, especially in sleeping and intimate spaces. By requiring the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish a secure facility at each women's prison to house transgender women, this bill achieves two crucial goals:

1. It protects the physical and psychological safety of biological women at birth who have voiced serious concerns over shared housing arrangements.
2. It ensures that transgender women are not neglected, but rather provided housing appropriate to their unique needs, with targeted resources and care.

Importantly, SB 311 also strengthens accountability by prohibiting housing in women's facilities for individuals—except biological women—convicted of offenses requiring registration under Section 290. This common-sense provision prioritizes trauma prevention and acknowledges the long-standing vulnerabilities of women in custody.




Our organization recognizes the humanity of all incarcerated individuals and supports policies that reflect fairness and compassion. However, those policies must also respect the specific trauma histories, safety needs, and rights of women—especially those who have already experienced violence, abuse, or exploitation.

Woman II Woman supports SB 311 as a balanced and thoughtful legislative effort that honors the dignity of both biological and transgender women while maintaining clear, protective boundaries within correctional facilities. We thank you, Senator Grove, for your bold leadership on this issue. We are looking forward to advancing this important piece of legislation together.

Sincerely,



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