



March 5, 2020

***California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, California Coalition for Women Prisoners, and Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund – Budget Request***

**Reparations for Survivors of Forced or Involuntary Sterilization: Victim’s Compensation Fund**

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**Summary:** California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ), California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP), and Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) seek a one-time allocation to provide restitution payments to people who were forcibly or involuntarily sterilized during two different periods in California history:

- Individuals who, between 1909 and 1979, were living in state institutions and sterilized pursuant to state eugenics laws, which deemed them “unfit to reproduce”; and
- Individuals who, after 1979, were sterilized without proper consents while under the custody of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

AB 3052 (Carrillo) provides a framework for program outreach, confirmation of eligibility, and administration of payments through the California Victim Compensation Board. Individuals would apply to the Board and go through a due process to confirm that they were involuntarily sterilized and meet the eligibility guidelines. AB 3052 also makes findings and declarations surrounding the policies implemented by the state, and raises awareness about these critically underrecognized harms.

Under this proposal, surviving individuals who are found to be eligible would receive a reparation payment of approximately \$25,000. We anticipate approximately 177 survivors to come forward.<sup>1</sup> However, in the event that more or fewer individuals do, then the individual compensation amount will be adjusted to evenly distribute the allocated funds. This structure will ensure that the total reparations allocation will not exceed the requested amount and that there will be no remainder.

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<sup>1</sup> Research shows that there are approximately 705 surviving individuals in California who were involuntarily sterilized in institutional settings. North Carolina and Virginia have similar restitution programs, and only 25% of eligible individuals came forward to seek restitution. Because of this data, we estimate that approximately 177 individuals will apply to receive restitution under this program.

**Request:** On behalf of those who had the ability to have children taken away from them without their knowledge or consent, we humbly request \$7,500,000. That amount would provide for:

- \$4,425,000 in funding for reparations payments to eligible survivors;
- \$2,000,000 in funding for agency implementation and outreach costs; and
- \$1,000,000 for the establishment of plaques and markers in the institutional settings where these acts occurred.

While no amount of money can adequately redress the harms experienced by sterilization survivors, this appropriation would represent a material acknowledgement of the state's horrific and discriminatory treatment of its most vulnerable populations. We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to ensure that we can provide some closure to those harmed under past government-sponsored sterilization practices.

**Contact Information:** For more information, please contact:

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Lawyering for Reproductive Justice





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