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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509

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May 5, 2009

Ms. Holly Herrera, Project Officer
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Refugee Resettlement
901 D Street, SW
Washington, DC 20447

Re: Survivors International TVRA Grant Application

Dear Ms. Herrera:

We are writing to express our strong and unreserved support for the grant application by Survivors International for funding under the Services for Survivors of Torture Program administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

Northern California has one of the highest concentrations of immigrants of any region in the country. According to the 2000 US Census, our districts are home to over 3 million foreign-born individuals. In the last quarter century tens of thousands of refugees have resettled in Northern California. Since it is estimated that up to 35% of torture affected survivors are among those refugees, literally thousands of families and individuals in Survivors International's service area can benefit from direct services.

Over the course of the two decades that Survivors International has been servicing torture survivors in Northern California, the organization's staff and leadership have come to be recognized experts in the field of torture treatment and rehabilitation. In recent years, the organization has further expanded its capacity and expertise in community education, practitioner training, and direct service through its extensive and growing network of clinicians, medical providers, and community-based organizations. Its reputation for excellence is well-deserved.

Survivors International has demonstrated the capacity to effectively provide treatment to survivors of torture in Northern California. Further, with its growing network of support, Survivors International is continually enhancing its capacity to serve the diverse client base of this underserved population.

Under its proposal to ORR's Services to Survivors of Torture Program, Survivors International seeks to strengthen and expand critical client-centered services by leveraging its extensive network of clinicians, medical practitioners, ethnic and community based organizations.

As elected representatives of the residents of the Greater San Francisco Bay Area and Northern California, we support Survivors International's grant proposal to ORR. Given the organization's demonstrated record of success working with survivors of torture and immigrant communities, its demonstrated organizational capacity, and the high quality of its direct services, we are confident that Survivors International would be a worthy recipient of Services for Survivors of Torture Program funding resources.

Thank you very much for your attention to our views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

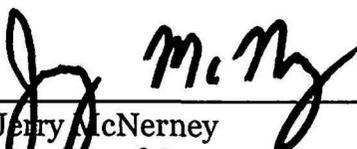
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