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L.A. County Apologizes to Survivors of Coerced Sterilizations Four Decades Later

Los Angeles, California (Wednesday, August 8th, 2018) --- Yesterday, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a formal public apology to the over 200 women sterilized without proper consent at LA County USC Medical Center from 1968 - 1974. As part of the apology, LA County will install a plaque on the County+USC Medical Center campus to acknowledge and apologize for the injustice and irreparable harm done. In addition, the motion introduced by Los Angeles County Supervisors Sheila Kuehl and Hilda L. Solis, supports California Latinas for Reproductive Justice and Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund's sponsored bill, SB 1190 (Skinner), which would establish a compensation fund for survivors of California Eugenics Laws from 1909 to 1979.

Race and ethnicity in the U.S. have always been intertwined with the country's eugenics efforts so it is not surprising that thousands of Latinas lost their reproductive freedom at the hands of California's Eugenics law and practices. Over 20,000 people were sterilized in the 70 year period that California had eugenics laws in its books, which had a disproportionate impact on Latinas.

Yesterday's apology has been decades in the making and we are proud to stand with survivors of policies and practices rooted in eugenics that robbed them of the right to have the families they desired. We were especially moved to carry the stories of those no longer with us and to stand in solidarity with the Madrigal 10 whose bravery has continued to inspire us to continue fighting for the reproductive freedom of our communities.

"As reproductive justice advocates, we recognize the insidious impact state-sponsored eugenics policies have had on the dignity and rights of poor women of color who were stripped of their ability to form the families they wanted," said Laura Jimenez, Executive



Director of California Latinas for Reproductive Justice. “The legacy of California’s eugenics laws is well-known and their repercussion continues to be felt. It is our duty to continue fighting for the reproductive freedom of our communities especially at a time when our communities are being vilified and stripped of their humanity.”

We want to especially thank Dr. Alexandra Stern, Dr. Natalie Lira, and Dr. Nicole L. Novak, Dr. Elena Gutierrez, Dr. Virginia Espino, Film Director Renee Tajima- Peña, and the Madrigal 10 and their families.

For more on [SB1190 CLICK HERE.](#)

For more on the [Madrigal 10 CLICK HERE.](#)

[COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES APOLOGY FOR HISTORICALLY COERCED STERILIZATIONS](#)

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About California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ) CLRJ is a statewide organization committed to honoring the experiences of Latinas to uphold our dignity, our bodies, sexuality, and families. We build Latinas’ power and cultivate leadership through community education, policy advocacy, and community informed research to achieve Reproductive Justice. Learn more about California Latinas for Reproductive Justice at www.californialatinas.org

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