

WOMEN LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION
OF LOS ANGELES

634 S. SPRING ST.
SUITE 617
LOS ANGELES, CA 90014

TEL: 213.892.8982
FAX: 213.892.8948

WEB: WWW.WLALA.ORG
E-MAIL: INFO@WLALA.ORG

April 19, 2018

Honorable Anthony Portantino
California State Senate
California State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 1436

Dear Senator Portantino,

Thank you for your leadership in authoring Senate Bill 1436, "DNA Paternity Testing Legislation." On behalf of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (WLALA), I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1436.

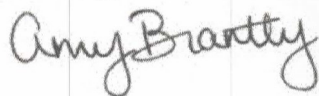
WLALA is a county-wide bar association dedicated to promoting the full participation of women lawyers and judges in the legal profession, maintaining the integrity of our legal system by advocating principles of fairness and equality, and improving the status of women in our society. In furtherance of these goals, WLALA supports Senate Bill 1436, which will allow children with deceased fathers to prove paternity by DNA genetic test results for the purposes of intestate succession.

This bill is a common-sense amendment to Probate Code § 6453(b) to remedy an outdated omission in this statute. Great advances in DNA technology have been made over the last 20 years. Because DNA genetic test results are now reliable to a virtual certainty, courts across the country regularly rely on genetic test results to determine paternity. Probate Code § 6453(b), however, does not allow children to prove a parent-child relationship by DNA evidence. The Legislature now has the opportunity to amend this outdated statute by passing Senate Bill 1436, which would simply add to Probate Code § 6453(b) a fourth way for a child to prove that his/her deceased father is the father by DNA genetic testing.

As advocates for women and their families, we feel strongly that any existing law that results in unfairness, unequal treatment, or jeopardizes the well-being of children must be changed. We look to our state legislature to provide remedies for such inequities in the law. Therefore, we write to add our collective voice in support of amending Probate Code § 6453(b).

We appreciate your continued advocacy for women and children, and your leadership in bringing this legislation to enhance the economic and social well-being of California's children.

Sincerely,



Amy Brantly
President
Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles

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