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February 28, 2017

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
c/o Lisa Gardiner, Chief of Staff
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: New Parent Leave Act SB 63 (Jackson) – Support

Dear Senator Jackson,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we are writing in support of SB 63, which would provide more California employees with job-protected parental leave for up to 12 weeks.

Currently, California law provides job-protected parental leave for employees working for an employer of 50 or more people. This necessarily leaves many California employees without any job-protected leave to bond with their children because their employer is too small. Bonding time is important for establishing breastfeeding cycles and is crucial for the health and development of infants and young children.

CWLC recognizes the importance of small business to California's economy and acknowledges the unique personnel challenges small businesses face. SB 63 will allow up to 12 weeks of job-protected parental leave for employees that work for an employer with 20 or more employees, within a 75-mile radius. This measure will only affect 6 percent of businesses, while benefiting up to 2.7 million California workers. It will ensure that more California workers are able to secure parental leave without fear of losing their jobs.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. CWLC recognizes the importance of ensuring that employees have the opportunity to care for and bond with a new child without repercussion from their employer. No person should have to choose between the health and well-being of their new child and their family's financial security.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center strongly supports SB 63.

Sincerely,

Betsy Butler
Executive Director