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April 4, 2018

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 94814

Re: Support AB 2289 (Weber) – Young Parents' Right to Education Act

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of AB 2289, the *Young Parents' Right to Education Act*, which would promote gender equity in education by ensuring that pregnant and parenting students in California receive consistent and adequate parental leave.

Title IX protects the rights of all students to receive equal educational opportunities regardless of sex. Unfortunately, very few of California's school districts are consistently complying with the requirements of Title IX with regard to pregnant and parenting students. District policies for student family leave are inconsistent and generally insufficient. Consequently, pregnant and parenting students often struggle to continue their education while pregnant or caring for their children. Nationally, only 38% of students who become mothers before they turn eighteen graduate high school. Educational attainment affects the lifelong stability and economic mobility of these young families.

AB 2289 will mandate leave for pregnant or parenting students and will provide guidelines for make-up plans or work study to ensure students can return to their school and classes with minimal academic interruption. Under AB 2289, students must be allowed 6 weeks of leave if they are the birthing parent, with an extra two weeks for complications or a cesarean, and 4 weeks of leave if they are the parenting partner.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. CWLC has expertise in working with schools in supporting their pregnant and parenting students and employees. AB 2289 will ensure students are fully supported before and after they give birth.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center strongly supports AB 2289.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director