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Betsy Butler

August 31, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 937 (Wiener) – Urge Signature

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write to urge your signature on SB 937, which creates a more equitable workplace for women in California by requiring employers to support lactating mothers.

Breastfeeding is recommended by every major health care organization and produces long and short-term health benefits for infants and families. Mothers are the fastest growing segment of the United States workforce, yet only 52% of mothers have workplace lactation support. Women with adequate break time and private space are more than two times as likely to be breastfeeding exclusively at six months, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Existing law requires employers to provide a reasonable amount of break time to employees to express milk and requires employers to provide a room or other location that is not a bathroom stall. However, lower income women and women of color still face severe disparities in lactation support.

SB 937 establishes minimum standards for lactation accommodation spaces, requires newly constructed or renovated buildings to include lactation spaces and requires that the Department of Labor Standards Enforcement provide a set of lactation accommodation best practices in a model policy for employers. SB 937 eases the transition of mothers who return to work and supports mothers by educating employees on their right to a lactation space.

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 employers and schools in supporting their pregnant and parenting employees. SB 937 will ensure lactating employees are fully supported after they give birth.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center urges your signature on SB 937.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director