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May 14, 2018

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 2785 (Rubio) – Support**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of AB 2785 which will ensure students at California's community colleges and state university campuses are able to nurse or pump milk for their children without jeopardizing their education.

Breastfeeding is recommended by every major health organization. Yet for students who choose to nurse or pump milk for their children, California's higher education institutions fail to provide consistent and adequate accommodations. While the law requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations to lactating employees, including break time and a private space, access to lactation accommodations for students at community colleges and state universities is inadequate. The lack of system-wide compliance policies allows barriers to proper lactation accommodations to continue to exist.

AB 2785 would address this need by requiring California's community colleges and state universities to provide lactating students a clean space with an electrical outlet and a place to sit. It would also require schools to ensure that there are no academic penalties to students for taking time to nurse or pump.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. For nearly 30 years, we have been on the frontlines advocating for the rights pregnant and parenting students on school campuses.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports AB 2785.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director