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March 14, 2016

The Honorable Carol Liu  
Senator, 25<sup>th</sup> District  
State Senate  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Senate Bill 1014 (Liu) – Support**

Dear Senator Liu:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), I am writing in support of SB 1014, which would promote gender equity in education by ensuring that pregnant and parenting students in California receive consistent and adequate parental and sick leave.

Title IX and California law protect all students' rights to equal educational opportunities regardless of sex, yet only some of the state's school districts have programs for pregnant and parenting students. Across the state of California, school district policies for student family leave are inconsistent and generally insufficient. Consequently, pregnant and parenting students often struggle to continue their education while caring for their children. Only 38% of students who become mothers before they reach the age of majority graduate from high school, and only 2% go to college before age 30. Educational attainment affects the lifelong stability and economic mobility of these young families.

SB 1014 removes barriers to educational equity by ensuring that pregnant and parenting students receive parental and sick leave so that they may continue their education. SB 1014 would require school districts to notify pregnant and parenting students of their rights and educational options, including an allowance of up to six weeks of leave for births without complications and eight weeks of leave for caesarian section births. In addition, parents not giving birth would be allowed up to four weeks of parental leave.

CWLC is dedicated to eliminating the barriers that keep women and girls in poverty. Since its founding in 1989, CWLC has worked to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education.

The California Women's Law Center strongly supports SB 1014, which we consider to be a vital step toward true educational equity for all, regardless of sex.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director