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**Executive Director**

Betsy Butler

August 19, 2016

The Honorable Tony Thurmond  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment  
1020 N Street, Room 155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Re: New Parent Leave Act SB 654 (Jackson) – Urge Support**

Dear Assembly Member Thurmond:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), I write to urge your support of SB 654, which would provide more California workers with job-protected leave when they take time off to bond with a new child.

Currently, the California Family Rights Act only covers employees who work at businesses with more than 50 employees. Thus, many workers in California are ineligible for job-protected leave because their employer is too small. Studies show that bonding time with a new child is important not only for breastfeeding purposes but also for the general health and development of the child.

CWLC recognizes the importance of small business to California's economy and the unique personnel challenges these small businesses face. SB 654 was recently amended to offer six weeks of leave to workers at business with 20-49 employees. This change will benefit up to 16% of California's workforce, while only affecting 6% of businesses. It will ensure that more California workers who pay into the Paid Family Leave insurance program are able to secure parental leave without fear of losing their job.

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 new parents have the opportunity to bond with their child without repercussion from their employer. No parent should have to choose between the health and well-being of their child and their family's financial security.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center strongly urges you to support SB 654 and urges the other members of the Committee on Labor and Employment to join you in this support.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director

Cc: Members of the Committee on Labor and Employment: Vice Chair, Assembly Member Jim Patterson; Assembly Member K. Chu, Assembly Member E. Linder; Assembly Member P. Lopez, Assembly Member K. McCarty, Assembly Member P. O'Donnell