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Executive Director

Betsy Butler

March 26, 2018

Senator Jackson
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support SB 224- Personal Rights: Sexual Harassment

Dear Senator Jackson,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of Senate Bill 224, which would address the unique relationship between investors and entrepreneurs by clarifying these relationships within the provisions of the Unruh Civil Rights Act.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. CWLC has been on the frontlines in the fight for policies to help secure women's equality in the workplace in California, ultimately benefitting families and communities across the state. CWLC is dedicated to working towards ending practices contributing to gender discrimination in employment, and ensure women have the resources and opportunities to advance their careers and receive equal compensation and benefits.

Currently, the Unruh Civil Rights Act establishes liability for sexual harassment when the aggrieved party proves, among other things, that a business, service, or professional relationship exists between the parties, that the offending party has made sexual advances, solicitations, sexual requests, demands for sexual compliance, or engaged in other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature or of a hostile nature based on gender, that these actions were unwelcome and pervasive or severe, and that the aggrieved party is not able to easily terminate the relationship and has suffered or will suffer economic loss or disadvantage or personal injury as a result of the inappropriate conduct. This statutory language has let many women particularly vulnerable to predatory behavior of investors and others possessing a substantial influence over their livelihoods.

SB 224 seeks to amend the Unruh Civil Rights Act to add investors, elected officials, lobbyists, directors and producers to the list of examples of relationships that are covered by the Act. This bill will provide more expansive protection for all women. For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center is pleased to support Senate Bill 224.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director

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