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Betsy Butler

September 7, 2018

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

Re: SB 224 (Jackson) – Urge Signature

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write to urge your signature on SB 224, which addresses the unique relationships of investors, entrepreneurs, lobbyists and others by including these relationships within the protections against sexual harassment in the Unruh Civil Rights Act.

Currently, one may be held liable for sexual harassment under the Unruh Civil Rights Act if they prove, among other things, that there is a business, service or professional relationship between the plaintiff and the defendant. Recently, the experiences of women employed in the venture capital, tech and entertainment industries, as well as at the State Capitol, have highlighted the need to clarify what types of relationships are covered by the Act.

The unique nature of the investor/entrepreneur relationship has left many women vulnerable to predatory behavior by defendants who possess a substantial amount of power over plaintiffs. SB 224 will address this by amending the Unruh Civil Rights Act to add investors, elected officials, lobbyists, directors and producers to the list of relationships that are covered by the Act.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. For nearly 30 years, CWLC has been on the frontlines in the fight to secure equality for women in the workplace, including by ending practices contributing to sexual harassment.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center urges your signature on SB 224.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director