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April 4, 2019

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 135 (Jackson) - Support

Dear Senator Jackson,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of SB 135 which will ensure job protection for more Californians who take leave under the state's Paid Family Leave Program.

Fifteen years ago, California enacted the nation's first Paid Family Leave Program to provide time to bond with a newborn child or take care of a seriously ill family member. Yet many Californians do not have job protection if they take this leave, forcing them to choose between caring for their loved one and jeopardizing their employment. Employees working for smaller employers or those who have not worked for their employer for more than a year, are not afforded protection from being fired once they return from leave.

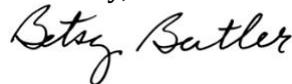
In addition, caretakers are not given job protection if they are taking leave to care for a distant relative, neighbor, or friend. By 2030, California's population of older adults will increase by four million. Failing to support those willing to provide care to California's aging population will directly harm older Californians and their families.

SB 135 will simplify and strengthen the California Family Rights Act, which currently provides job protection for some employees. The bill will provide job protection for employees who work for an employer with 5 or more employees, and will expand the definition of family members to reflect the diverse caregiving needs of aging Californians.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. SB 135 will ensure Californians are able to access the state's leave program without fear of losing their jobs, enabling them to care for their loved ones.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 135.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director