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Betsy Butler

June 17, 2016

The Honorable Roger Hernández
Chair, Committee on Labor and Employment
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1166 (Jackson) – Support

Dear Assembly Member Hernández:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), I write in support of SB 1166, which would provide up to three months of job-protected maternity and paternity leave for more California employees.

While California is one of only three states to offer paid family leave for new parents, it remains impossibly out of reach for most low-wage earners and those who work for small employers. SB 1166 would drastically improve access to parental leave for all California workers by ensuring workers have job protection.

Because the California Family Rights Act and the federal Family Medical Leave Act only cover employees who work for large companies, many members of California's workforce remain ineligible for job protected leave because their employer is too small. Presently, our family leave laws do not cover nearly half of the workforce, employers can punish workers for taking time to care for a new child.

SB 1166 would alleviate the risk of losing a job by extending parental leave rights for new parents (including domestic partners and adoptive or foster parents) who work for employers with 10 or more employees.

Since its founding in 1989, CWLC has worked to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. A vital part of our mission is to ensure that parents have employment protections that will allow them to succeed in the workforce.

For all of these reasons, the California Women's Law Center strongly urges your support of SB 1166.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson