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September 4, 2018

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

**Re: SB 1123 (Jackson) – Urge Signature**

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of SB 1123, which expands California's Paid Family Leave Program to allow partial wage replacement for critical needs arising as a result of a spouse, domestic partner, parent or child's deployment overseas as a member of the Armed Forces.

Recognizing the significant needs of military families during the stressful time leading up to, during and following a family member's deployment, in 2010 the federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) was expanded to allow up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave following a family member's deployment.

Known as "qualifying exigency leave," federal law allows family members time off to arrange for alternative childcare for a military member's child, update financial and legal arrangements, attend briefings or military events, and address issues that arise as the result of short-notice deployment or the death of a family member. However, while the leave provided by the FMLA is job-protected, it is unpaid. SB 1123 would allow 6 weeks of partial wage replacement for this leave under California's Paid Family Leave Program, providing critical financial support during this difficult time.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. For nearly three decades, CWLC has been fighting for economic security for women and families in the workplace, fair and equitable paid leave laws and the highest level of support for veterans and their families.

For these reasons, California Women's Law Center urges your signature on SB 1123.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director