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***Celebrating 29 Years of Empowering Women***

April 08, 2017

Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson  
State Capitol Room 2032  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
**ATTN: Lisa Gardiner (email) [lisa.gardiner@sen.ca.gov](mailto:lisa.gardiner@sen.ca.gov)**

**RE: SB 63 (Jackson) Unlawful Employment Practice: Parental Leave --SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Jackson,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for SB 63 granting small business employees the right to take parental / family leave for up to 12 weeks, unpaid, with continued group health and guarantee of employment following. SBWPC's mission is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values through political and social action and educational activities. Our organization is one of the largest women's political committees in Santa Barbara County. We advocate for a diverse set of positions which include Childcare and Working Women. We know that "the responsibility for childcare falls disproportionately on the shoulders of working women...." We support "expansion of current medical and family leave benefits," and "funding of ... in-home care...." (<http://sbwpc.org/positions-new/>).

Being a new parent, or dealing with sick family members, can be very stressful for everyone, yet the California Family Rights Act (CFRA) currently applies to businesses with 50 or more employees. We agree this should be amended to include employees of smaller companies. Guaranteed continuation of medical coverage while on leave and a position to return to helps reduce the families stress allowing employees to focus on their situation, be it new parents or caring for a sick family member.

SBWPC believes that SB 63 can make a positive impact on family medical care rights and that employees of small businesses of over 20 employees should be allowed the same rights as those employed in larger business.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards SB 63 as an important step in supporting the importance of family care and an amiable employment leave. Therefore, the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee supports SB 63 and urges its passage.

Thank you for reviewing our organization's position on this issue. Should you wish to communicate further with us, please email us at [info@sbwpc.org](mailto:info@sbwpc.org) or visit our website: [www.sbwpc.org](http://www.sbwpc.org)

Sincerely,

Catherine Swysen  
President, SBWPC

CC: Assemblymember Monique Limón, fax: 916-319-2137