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March 31, 2017

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 2187
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 63 (Jackson) New Parental Leave Act - SUPPORT
Senate Judiciary Committee – April 4, 2017

Senator Jackson:

I write on behalf of the Consumer Federation of California (CFC) in support of your legislation, SB 63. This bill ensures that more California workers, who have been paying into the Paid Family Leave insurance program, are able to use this benefit without the risk of losing their job.

Research has shown that when parents are able to stay home and care for their newborn and young children there are significant benefits to the health and wellbeing of the child. In fact, 80% of the child's total brain development happens in the first three years, and parent-child interactions in the first three months are key to establishing the foundation for success. Under current law, only those Californians who work for an employer of 50 or more are eligible for job-protected parental leave. This leaves too many new parents struggling with the impossible choice between the well-being of their child and their financial security.

SB 63 would extend eligibility for job-protected parental leave to employees who work for a company with 20 or more employees; benefiting up to 2.7 million more Californians, but only affecting 6 percent of the businesses.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Richard Holober
Executive Director