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May 22, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara  
Chair, Senate Appropriation Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 63 (Jackson) New Parental Leave Act - SUPPORT**  
As Amended April 17, 2017  
Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File

Senator Lara:

I write on behalf of the Consumer Federation of California (CFC) in support of SB 63 (Jackson). 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.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for on SB 63.

If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Aaron Lewis, CFC Legislative Advocate, at (916) 498-9616.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Holober". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Richard" and "Holober" being capitalized and prominent.

Richard Holober  
Executive Director

Cc: Members and Staff, Senate Appropriations Committee