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September 25, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
California State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 63 (Jackson) - Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The Consumer Federation of California writes in strong support of SB 63, authored by Senator 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.

SB 63 prohibits an employer of 20 or more employees to refuse to allow an employee to take up to 12 weeks of job protected parental leave to bond with a new child, within one year of the child's birth, adoption or foster care placement, and would also prohibit an employer from refusing to maintain and pay for the employee's health coverage during the duration of the leave.

By extending eligibility for job-protected parental leave to employees who work for a company with 20 or more employees, SB 63 would benefit up to 2.7 million more Californians, but only affect 6 percent of businesses.

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.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to sign SB 63. Thank you for your attention to this request.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Holober". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Holober
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson