(LETTERHEAD)

Dear Governor Brown,

We write to urge **you to sign SB 63 (Jackson)** **– the New Parent Leave Act**.

{Insert your organization and its interest in health and wellbeing}

The two most important determinants of whether parents take bonding leave are whether the leave is paid and job-protected. Virtually all workers in California pay into the Paid Family Leave program – and thus are eligible for 6 weeks of partial wage replacement benefits while bonding with a new child. But, workers at businesses with fewer than 50 employees cannot take Paid Family Leave without risking their jobs. SB 63 addresses this problem by allowing up to 2.7 million more California workers to take job-protected parental leave.  
  
We support SB 63 because access to parental leave leads to improved maternal health, birth outcomes, and child health. For example:

* Longer maternity leave is associated with decreased maternal depression [2], and can have long-lasting effects on mothers’ mental health later in life. [3]
* Maternity leave increases the rate and duration of breastfeeding, which is associated with improved maternal and child health. [4]
* Paid parental leave decreases the likelihood of preterm birth, low birth weight and infant mortality across socioeconomic groups. [5] A 2011 study of 141 countries found that paid parental leave can reduce infant mortality by as much as 10%. [6]
* Parental leave is linked with increased preventative care like vaccinations. One study found that when mothers had access to paid maternity leave, children were 25% and 22% more likely to get measles and polio vaccines, respectively. [7]
* The critical neurodevelopment that occurs in infancy and early childhood can have lasting effects across the lifespan, and parental leave has a positive effect on a parent’s ability to bond with and care for their child. [8]
* Paid parental leave has been shown to reduce risk factors for child maltreatment [9] and is associated with a reduction in abusive head trauma hospital admissions among young children. [10]
* Fathers who take paternity leave are more likely to be actively engaged in their child’s care nine months after birth [11], and fathers’ engagement in children’s care leads to improved health and development outcomes for children. [12]

We urge your “Aye” vote on SB 63. Supporting parents to be good parents via parental leave improves maternal health, birth outcomes, and child health.

Sincerely,

**Endnotes**

[1] Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183). Convention concerning the revision of the Maternity Protection Convention (Revised), 1952 (Entry into force: 07 Feb 2002), [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\_ILO\_CODE:C183](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p%3DNORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C183&sa=D&ust=1473700490268000&usg=AFQjCNHqznXwMQ07hrZxgk3qn6yLH196Aw)   
[2] Chatterji and Markowitz, Family Leave After Childbirth and the Mental Health of New Mothers, Journal of Mental Health Policy & Economics (2012), [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22813939](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22813939&sa=D&ust=1473700490268000&usg=AFQjCNFWAfIfJnbrgSDi1sgcROKTXVjZkg).   
[3] Avendano et al., The Long Run Effects of Maternity Leave Benefits on Mental Health: Evidence from European Countries, [http://arno.uvt.nl/show.cgi?fid=133880](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://arno.uvt.nl/show.cgi?fid%3D133880&sa=D&ust=1473700490268000&usg=AFQjCNGaor6M3G6_XYrgb6ZfidWcyz7cAw).   
[4] Appelbaum and Milkman, Leaves that Pay: Employer and Worker Experiences with Paid Family Leave in California (2011), [http://cepr.net/publications/reports/leaves-that-pay](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://cepr.net/publications/reports/leaves-that-pay&sa=D&ust=1473700490268000&usg=AFQjCNEqrcpb0AOc1eFNMJSXQTlkQgd-MQ).   
[5] Rossin, M., The Effects of Maternity Leave on Children’s Birth and Infant Health Outcomes in the United States, Journal of Health Economics (2011); Stearns, J., The Effects of Paid Maternity Leave: Evidence from Temporary Disability Insurance, Journal of Health Economics (2015).  
[6] Heymann, Jody et al., Creating and Using New Data Sources to Analyze the Relationship Between Social Policy and Global Health: The Case of Maternal Leave, Public Health Reports (2011), [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3150137/](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3150137/&sa=D&ust=1473700490268000&usg=AFQjCNHuZ8_cwvJrm39KfAPtBwX9Vwc3ww).  
[7] Berger, Lawrence, et al., Maternity Leave, Early Maternal Employment and Child Health and Development in the US, (Jan. 27, 2005), [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.0013-0133.2005.00971.x/abstract](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.0013-0133.2005.00971.x/abstract&sa=D&ust=1473700490268000&usg=AFQjCNFfGxUfmpAhpU_FMhqtynf0pVupMA).   
[8] See supra, Appelbaum and Milkman.  
[9] Stith SM, Lui T, Davies C, et al. Risk factors in child maltreatment: a meta-analytic review of the literature. Aggress Violent Behav 2009;14:13–29  
[10] Klevens, J., Luo, F., Xu, L., Peterson, C., & Latzman, N. E. (2016). Paid family leave's effect on hospital admissions for pediatric abusive head trauma. Injury prevention, injuryprev-2015.  
[11] DOL Policy Brief, Paternity Leave: Why Parental Leave for Fathers is So Important for Working Families, [https://www.dol.gov/asp/policy-development/paternityBrief.pdf](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.dol.gov/asp/policy-development/paternityBrief.pdf&sa=D&ust=1473700490268000&usg=AFQjCNHoiKdp0IkEGBdYsChAKsMdTz3Tng), citing Lenna Nepomnyaschy and Jane Waldfogel. 2007. “Paternity Leave and Fathers’ Involvement with Their Young Children: Evidence from the American Ecls–B.” Community, Work & Family 10(4): 427-453  
[12] DOL Policy Brief, Paternity Leave: Why Parental Leave for Fathers is So Important for Working Families, [https://www.dol.gov/asp/policy-development/paternityBrief.pdf](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.dol.gov/asp/policy-development/paternityBrief.pdf&sa=D&ust=1473700490269000&usg=AFQjCNE2DzLGFPpMTo22TV5jzCVinAjHVQ) (collecting studies).