



***Torrance Chamber members voice their opposition to SB1383,  
A proposal that would devastate Small Business in California***

Members of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce actively took part in a coalition meeting hosted by the California Chamber of Commerce to voice their concern in opposition of SB 1383 (Jackson; D-Santa Barbara) this past Thursday. More than 85 associations that represent thousands of employers have joined the CalChamber in opposing the measure. The coalition met with Assembly member Al Muratsuchi, 66<sup>th</sup> District.

Laurie Porter, Smog City Brewery; Larry Halvorsen, Express Personnel Services; Laurie Brandt, Red Car Brewery and Restaurant; Kirk Rossberg, Torrance Bakery and Charles Gale, Metropolitan Water District individually expressed their concerns. Assembly member Muratsuchi listened and asked follow-up questions.

SB 1383 proposes a mandatory 12-week leave of absence on any employer with five or more employees and would overwhelmingly hurt the state's smallest employers. CalChamber's opposition also turns on the fact that SB 1383 will impose a significant administrative burden on employers and drive up their costs. Even though the leave prescribed in SB 1383 is unpaid, employers must still pay to train and hire temporary help to cover the workload of the employee who is on leave or pay overtime if they shift work to other workers. Further, the employer may also be required to maintain the health benefits of any employee out on an unpaid leave.

In addition to providing the leave, the coalition is concerned with the risk of litigation if any mistake is made in implementing the leave. Most business owners do their best to comply with all the different labor law requirements. But it is challenging to keep up and to ensure no unintentional mistakes are made.

For larger employers who are covered by both federal family leave and California family leave, providing the opportunity for an employee to take 6 months of leave will be difficult. We already have challenges with implementing 12 weeks of leave and are concerned with the ability to take on such a significant expansion at this time when we are also suffering because of this pandemic.