



May 14, 2020

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via webportal

RE: 1383 (Jackson), Strengthening the Family School Partnership Act During Emergencies - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson,

The Hollywood Chapter of the National Organization for Women (Hollywood NOW) writes in strong support of Senate Bill 1383, which will provide working parents with the essential job protection they need to care for their children without risking their job during an emergency.

Hollywood NOW is a membership organization committed to institutionalizing intersectional gender equity. Our work transgresses over social boundaries and walls built to imprint, reinforce and protect implicit stereotype biases that damage all of us. As a progressive, intersectional feminist organization, we advocate for solutions that recognize that individuals face multiple intersecting discriminations/privileges based on race, sex, gender, sexuality, and other statuses. We stand to work to eliminate institutional privilege, discrimination, and bias.

As a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic, 99.6% of California's K-12 school districts closed, impacting 6.2 million students and their families. During the 2018-19 school year, wildfires and similar disasters resulted in school closures impacting more than 1.2 million students. A vast majority of children live in families where both parents work or families that are headed by a single parent. That means that when the child's school or daycare is not available, a parent must leave work in order to provide the care that the child needs. This bill would protect these families by providing job-protected leave to parents whose children's daycare or school closes due to an emergency for the duration of the emergency.

California has recognized the challenges faced by working parents by passing the Family School Partnership Act, which provides up to 40 hours of job-protected, unpaid time off per year for parents to participate in their child's school or licensed day care facility's activities, and by strengthening these protections through the Family Engagement Act in 2015. SB 1383 expands on these essential protections by ensuring that all parents, regardless of the size of their employer, are able to care for their child when an emergency strikes and their child's school or place of care becomes unavailable for the duration of that emergency. Parents should not be

hollywoodnowchapter@gmail.com

Hollywood Chapter
National Organization for Women
www.hollywoodnow.org

(323) 596-7389



forced to count down the hours until they will be fired for caring for their child during a pandemic or natural disaster.

This bill will allow working parents to keep their jobs while fulfilling their parental obligations during crises. The bill will also benefit employers by strengthening employee morale and job retention for working parents.

No Californian should have to choose between keeping their job and caring for their child. For these reasons, Hollywood NOW strongly supports SB 1383.

Sincerely,

John Erickson
President
Hollywood NOW

cc: anya.shutovska@sen.ca.gov
katie@workfamilyca.org
kwutchiett@legalaidatwork.org