

Statement from Joannie C. Chang Asian Law Caucus Lauds Paid Family Leave Benefits Program

"Although the federal Family Medical Leave Act and the California Family Rights Act already provided workers with the right to take leave to care for themselves, a seriously ill family member, or a new child, these laws failed to guarantee any income to workers who need family/medical leave. Paid Family Leave benefits are especially important to immigrant workers because so many are employed by small businesses in such industries as garment and restaurant, where sick and vacation days are almost unheard. Many members of our community are low-wage workers who don't have the option of taking vacation or sick days, and California's paid family leave program provides the missing link, making it possible for workers to take the time they need to care for their family members."

Joannie C. Chang is the Director of Employment & Labor Projects at the Asian Law Caucus (ALC). In addition to litigating Title VII and FMLA/CFRA cases, Ms. Chang has drafted, testified, and lobbied for the passage of the first comprehensive paid family leave law in the nation.

The mission of the Asian Law Caucus (ALC) is to promote, advance and represent the legal and civil rights of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Because many Asians and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. are low-income immigrants and refugees, the ALC strives to create an informed and educated community empowered to assert its rights and to participate actively in American society. This perspective is reflected in our broad strategy, which integrates the provision of legal services, educational programs, community organizing initiatives, and advocacy.

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