



The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
California State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

March 1, 2021

RE: AB 123 (Gonzalez) Paid family leave: weekly benefit amount. SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes in strong support of AB 123 would increase paid family leave benefits to 90% of wages starting on Jan 1, 2022. CARA is California's largest grassroots advocacy organization, representing over 1 million members through our 300+ affiliated organizations. Keeping families together and allowing people to care for their family members when they are disabled or sick should not cost them their jobs or homes.

Existing law establishes, within the state disability insurance program, a family temporary disability insurance program, also known as the paid family leave program, for the provision of wage replacement benefits for up to 8 weeks to workers who take time off work to care for a seriously ill family member or to bond with a minor child within one year of birth or placement. Existing law defines "weekly benefit amount" for purposes of both employee contributions and benefits under this program to mean the amount of weekly benefits available to qualifying disabled individuals pursuant to unemployment compensation disability law.

AB 123 would revise the formula for determining benefits available pursuant to the family temporary disability insurance program, for periods of disability commencing after January 1, 2022, by redefining the weekly benefit amount to be equal to 90% of the wages paid to an individual for employment by employers during the quarter of the individual's disability base period in which these wages were highest, divided by 13, but not exceeding the maximum workers' compensation temporary disability indemnity weekly benefit amount established by the Department of Industrial Relations.

Many people are forced to leave their paid jobs in order to care for loved ones at home. This brings great financial hardship to these families. We should be honoring our caregivers for making the sacrifice, not punish them for taking time off to provide this care.

For all these reasons, CARA urges support of AB 123. We thank you for authoring this important legislation and will work with you to assure its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly
CARA Legislative Director
415-533-5244

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