



Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 26, 2021

RE: OPPOSED AB 995 (GONZALEZ)

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez,

The Chico Chamber Board of Directors at its May 26, 2021 voted to **OPPOSE Assembly Bill 995**.

This bill would nearly double the requirement to provide paid sick leave from three days per year to five days per year. Those businesses that can afford to offer more than three days of sick leave are doing so, but not all businesses can absorb that cost right now.

While this one leave increase may not seem significant in isolation, it must be viewed in light of all of the increased costs businesses have had to sustain during COVID-19 and the new leaves that businesses have had to provide during the past year, including:

- Four weeks of COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave
- 12 weeks of California Family Rights Act (CFRA) leave
- Two weeks of paid leave under the CalOSHA Emergency Temporary Standard
- Uncapped leave under the workers' compensation system COVID-19 presumption

Recent data trends show that small business revenue is down around 30% in California, with some sectors being down more than 50%. Currently, the number of small businesses that are open is down 32% compared to January 2020. The employer community is asking that the Legislature not continue to pile on more mandates while businesses struggle to reopen and hire back employees. We are asking that the Legislature not move AB 995 forward this year.

For these reasons, we respectfully OPPOSE AB 995.

Sincerely,

Katy Thoma
President/CEO

180 E. 4th Street, Suite 120
PO Box 3300
Chico, CA 95927
(530)891-5556
www.chicochamber.com