Urge Governor: Veto Leave Mandate for Small Business

The California Chamber of Commerce is urging members to ask the Governor to veto a job killer bill mandating that small businesses provide a new protected leave of absence.

Last week, the Legislature sent SB 63 (Jackson; D-Santa Barbara) to Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

The CalChamber and a coalition of business groups and local chambers of commerce have been opposing SB 63 because it unduly burdens and increases costs of small employers with as few as 20 employees by requiring 12 weeks of protected employee leave for child bonding. It also exposes employers to the threat of costly litigation.

The recent amendments do not limit the bill’s cost or employers’ exposure to litigation.

The Governor vetoed a similar, but narrower, proposal just last year.

Hurts Small Businesses

In opposing SB 63, the CalChamber and coalition have been pointing out that the bill will overwhelm small employers with a new 12-week mandatory leave of absence. The bill targets small employers with as few as 20 employees within a 75-mile radius and requires those employers to provide 12 weeks of leave in addition to the other leaves of absence California already imposes.

The mandate will overwhelm small employers as follows:

• Creates a combined 7-month protected leave of absence on small employers. California employers with 5 or more employees already are required to provide up to 4 months of protected leave for an employee who suffers a medical disability due to pregnancy. SB 63 will add another 12 weeks of leave for the same employee, totaling 7 months of potential protected leave.

• Could affect worksites that have substantially fewer than 20 employees. SB 63 is applicable to any employer that has 20 or more employees within a 75-mile radius. Employees at multiple worksites are aggregated together to reach the employee threshold. Accordingly, a worksite that has only 5 employees will be required to accommodate this mandatory leave if there are other worksites in a 75-mile radius that have enough employees to reach the 20 employee threshold.

...continued on page 6 ▶
AIR SHOW GALA
FASHION SHOW
& LADIES NIGHT
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017
IMPERIAL VALLEY MALL
(FORMER RUE 21 SPACE)

COCKTAIL HOUR 6pm
FASHION SHOW 7pm
VENDORS 6pm to 10pm
*DANCING TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW FASHION SHOW.

PRESALE $25/ticket
(includes 3 wine tastings & appetizers)

DOOR SALE: $30/ticket

FOR TICKETS AND VENDOR INFORMATION, CONTACT THE
EL CENTRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (760) 352-3681

OR EMAIL ANTHONY MORENO
ANTHONY@ELCENTROCHAMBER.COM
It is an honor to serve as the president of the El Centro Area Chamber of Commerce. I would like to thank all of our members for their continued support. It is our members and partners’ support that allow us to be a successful Chamber. Our partnership with the County of Imperial, City of El Centro, Imperial County Farm Bureau and Naval Air Facility El Centro are very important to the Chamber and I appreciate the relationships we have developed with each of them.

Please be reminded of the Air Show Gala Fashion Show & Ladies Night on Friday, October 6, 2017 at the Imperial Valley Mall in the old Rue 21 location. This is a very nice evening for the women of the valley. Please come and enjoy and bring your friends. We also have our Annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2, 2017. This year’s theme is “Toys, Trains and Candy Canes” and it will be here before you know it. Anyone wanting to participate in the parade please submit your entries early as this will help staff with the coordination of the parade.

It has been a blessing to serve together with a great board of directors and staff for the past few months. We look forward to growing our current relationships and nurturing new ones. We are here to serve and represent our members. I am looking forward to a great 2017-2018!

Again thank you for your continued support of the El Centro Chamber.
Leave Mandate, continued

• Imposes a mandatory leave with no discretion to the employer. The leave under SB 63 must be given at the employee’s request, regardless of whether the employer has other employees out on other California-required leaves.

• Imposes additional costs on small employers that are struggling with the increased minimum wage. Although the SB 63 leave is not “paid” by the employer, while the employee is on leave, the employer will have to maintain medical benefits, pay for a temporary employee to cover for the employee on leave (usually at a higher premium) or pay overtime to other employees to cover the work of the employee on leave.

• Exposes small employers to costly litigation. Labeling an employer’s failure to provide the SB 63 leave as an “unlawful employment practice” exposes an employer to costly litigation under the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).

An employee who believes the employer did not provide the 12 weeks of protected leave, failed to return the employee to the same or comparable position, failed to maintain benefits while the employee was out on the 12 weeks of leave, or took any adverse employment action against the employee for taking the leave, could pursue a claim against the employer seeking: compensatory damages, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, punitive damages, and attorney’s fees.

The cost for a small to mid-size employer to defend and settle a single plaintiff discrimination claim is approximately $125,000, according to a 2015 study by insurance provider Hiscox.

Family-Friendly State

California already imposes numerous family-friendly leaves of absence on employers and is recognized by the National Conference of State Legislatures as one of the most family-friendly states in the nation.

California’s list of programs and protected leaves of absence includes: paid sick days, school activities leave, kin care, paid family leave program, pregnancy disability leave and the California Family Rights Act.

These state leaves are in addition to the leaves of absence required by federal law.

A recent study, “The Status of Women in the States: 2015 Work & Family,” ranked California No. 2 for work and family policies that support workers keeping their jobs and also caring for their family members.

Action Needed

The CalChamber is encouraging members to contact the Governor and urge him to veto SB 63.

72nd Annual El Centro
CHRISTMAS PARADE

TOYS TRAINS & Candy Canes

Parade Route

SOUTH AURORA
Bucklin
12th Street
Main Street
Broadway
8th Street

SATURDAY DEC 2ND
10AM-12PM

Presented By:

For more info call (760) 352-3681 or visit www.elcentrochamber.com
WIN THIS!!!

2017 POLARIS RZR X1000

Donation: $10.00  PROCEEDS BENEFIT:

Drawing held on...
Saturday, October 7th.

Winner Need Not Be Present To Win!
2017 Imperial Valley Girls Rock! Nominees

Tim Blankenship, Bill DuBois & Kris Haugh, UDG Mixer

2017 Summer Bash Mixer

NAF El Centro Sailor Indoc

2017-2018

Platinum
San Diego Gas & Electric

GOLD
Imperial Valley Press
Quechan/Paradise Casino
Rabobank
The Desert Review

SILVER
City of El Centro
Walmart Supercenter

BRONZE
Burgers & Beers
CR&R Incorporated
Community Valley Bank (CVB)
First Imperial Credit Union
Hutchinson & Bloodgood
Imperial Printers
Imperial Valley Family Care Medical Group
Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District
Rogers & Rogers Auto Group
Skyline Securities
Spectrum Creative Advertising
Sun Community Federal Credit Union
Swain & Kennerson an Accountancy Corp.
Tyler Insurance Agency
United States Gypsum

www.elcentrochamber.com
Thank you to all that have renewed their membership in June, July, August and September!

Imperial Valley Community Foundation
Locke Air Conditioning and Custom Sheet Metal, Inc
Merli Concrete Pumping
Shamrock Foods Co.
Xavier Outdoor Advertising
Bureau of Land Management
Gocke, Stephen E., MD Inc. - Obstetrics, Gynecology
Seeds West Inc.
Burgers & Beer
Community Valley Bank (CVB)
First Imperial Credit Union
Hutchinson & Bloodgood LLP
Imperial Valley Family Care Medical Group APC
Rabobank
Rogers & Rogers Auto Group
Sun Community Federal Credit Union
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United States Gypsum Company
Adolescents, Babies & Children, A Medical Corp.
Bornt & Sons Inc.
La Fonda Bar & Grill
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Valuek Chiropractic
Western Growers
Celia's Restaurant
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Chicago Title Co.
Horton, Knox, Carter & Foote, LLP.
Imperial Valley Mall
KXX Radio - AM/FM
R & K Air Conditioning
Southern California Gas Co.
Claypool Distributing Co.
El Zarape Restaurant
Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District
Walmart Supercenter
Office Depot
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Cancer Resource Center of the Desert, Inc.
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Costco Wholesale
Hart Insurance Center, Inc.
Styles & Smiles Beauty Salon
Wells Fargo Bank
Womanhaven, Inc.
Energy Source
Collette Travel
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Earthrise Nutritionals LLC
News & Events

El Centro Area Chamber of Commerce/Los Vigilantes 72nd Annual Christmas Parade - Now is the time to consider promoting your business by participating in this year’s parade to be held Saturday, December 2nd. The Theme of this year’s parade is “Toys, Trains and Candy Canes.” The Early Bird rate of $20 ends September 30, 2017. REGULAR RATE $35 – October 1st – November 22nd.
Deadline for COMPLETED entries is WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd at 12 p.m. LATE FEE OF $200 is applied to ANY entry received AFTER November 23rd. ABSOLUTE-LEY NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 12 PM ON NOVEMBER 28th.

October 5
Food & Wine Celebration - Imperial County Association of REALTORS® presents “Food and Wine Celebration”. As part of our commitment to the communities we serve, each year we come together and support a local non-profit organization. Giving back to the community is our way of saying thank you. Imperial County Association of REALTORS® is proud to announce this beneficiary. CASA will be the recipient for this year’s fundraiser. Celebration Event to take place at Cheval Farm located 346 Larsen Road, Imperial from 7:00pm to 10:30pm. For more information contact Ruben Gonzales (760) 352-6010. Cost per ticket is $25.00. Sponsorship opportunities available.

October 7
Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley’s Combo Auction: Under Our Valley Sun - The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Join us for an evening of cocktails, dinner, and bidding on your favorite items while supporting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Imperial Valley. Takes place at Stockmen’s Club of Imperial Valley, 275 S. Marjorie Ave. Brawley, CA at 6pm. The cost is $100 per person ($125 after September 15th) Sponsorship Opportunities are available. For more information call 760-344-2040.

October 12
18th Annual Fall Into the Season Mixer - Join the Imperial Valley Joint Chamber of Commerce as they present the 18th Annual Fall into the Season Mixer: Come meet & mingle with your local Elected Officials & Candidates. Festivities include: Hors d’oeuvres, a No-host Bar, Networking and Prize Drawings, Grab some business cards and don’t miss out on the excitement! Mixer takes place at San Diego State University – Imperial Valley (Rollie Carrillo Quad and Stepping Art Gallery) 720 Heber Avenue, Calexico from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

October 13
Woof-O-Ween 2017 - Fitness Oasis Health Club & the Humane Society of Imperial County invite you to strut your stuff at “Woof-O-Ween 2017”. There will be Food, Games, Raffles, Prizes, Doggie Costume Contest, Beer, Spirits & Wine Garden. All proceeds benefit the Humane Society of IC. Takes place at Fitness Oasis Health Club 504 W. Aten Road, Imperial, CA. Festivities Begin @ 7PM. Contact Information: (760)355-8888.

October 14
2017 Harvest Bowl - At the I.V. Food Bank our mission is to “Fight Hunger - Bringing Health and Hope to the Imperial Valley”. We are on a crusade to educate people across the Valley to the unacceptable incidence of hunger in our county. By joining us at our annual Harvest Bowl, you too will contribute to ending hunger in Imperial Valley. Takes place at Sahara Packing Co. located at 696 N. 8th Street, Brawley. For more information contact: Sara Griffen (760)370-0966.

October 15
IVC Career Fair/College & University Day 2017 - October 5
CVB 10th Anniversary – Join CVB and the El Centro Chamber as we celebrate 10 years and growing…in El Centro! This is a momentous time for Community Valley Bank, because they made it through the financial crisis of 2007 and have continued to grow in assets, loans and deposits. CVB now has a total of 4 full service branches in Southern California to better serve its customers! Don’t miss out on the celebration! Come mingle and network and enjoy food and drinks to follow. Event takes place from 5pm to 7pm at 1443 W. Main Street, El Centro.

October 16
Imperial Valley Film Festival & Artist Showcase - Free Industry Workshops, Q & A Sessions with industry professionals and free art exhibit! For tickets please visit: NorthCountyCoalitionForTheArts.Org. Event Takes place at Fitness Oasis Health Club & the Palm’s Resort 2050 Country Club Dr., Holtville, CA. Doors open @ 7:30 Show Starts @ 9:00 pm. For more info call 760-791-9125 or 760-460-6088 Fees/Admission: Tickets $25. VIP Tables available.

October 18
Remember My Name Proclamation Walk – Brought to you by WomenHaven, A Center for Family Solutions, takes place at Town Center Park, El Centro starting at 5:15pm.

October 19
Purple Day - Wear Purple to show your support for Domestic Violence Awareness #purplethursday2017

October 19
Red Shoe Day - Red Shoe Day is back for a seventh great year! On the morning of October 18th, 400 volunteers will be singing, dancing, and collecting donations from commuters at key intersections throughout the Imperial Valley. All proceeds collected during the morning drive time, will directly benefit these Imperial Valley families who turn to our Ronald McDonald House for a place of comfort, care, and compassion while a child of theirs is undergoing treatment in a San Diego Hospital. Sign up as an individual, or even better, recruit a team of family, friends, teammates or coworkers! Contact Allegra at asonza@rmhcsd.org or 858-598-2417 with questions.

October 23
WASUP WU Production Presents "Welcome, Back Teachers" Comedy Show - With comedy from Aiden Park, Leo Cital, Glen Bolton and Christine Little. All proceeds will go to MAG Coalition. Takes place Imperial Palms Resort 2050 Country Club Dr., Holtville, Ca. Doors open @ 7:30 Show Starts @ 9:00 pm. and over welcome 21 and over to drink. For more info call 760-791-9125 or 760-460-6088 Fees/Admission: Tickets $25. VIP Tables available.

October 26
Purple Day - Wear Purple to show your support for Domestic Violence Awareness #purplethursday2017

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**News & Events**

**October 20**
**Dancing for a Dream 2017!** - Six Stars with their dance instructors give their time and dedication to help six children dealing with cancer. The children were chosen from our community, come join us on October 20th at Cheval Farms. Come support a great Charity Event to help these six children with their medical expenses and together we can fight cancer! Dancing for one medical need at a time! Cheval Farm located at 346 Larsen Road, Imperial, CA. Starting at 6pm. The cost is $60 per person. For more information contact Oscar Garcia @ 760-234-3564.

**October 21**
**Imperial County Historical Society Annual Draw Down Dinner** - The Dinner Drawing is one of Pioneers Museums main fundraiser occurring each fall. Purchase your tickets for $200 which includes admission for two and two dinner tickets. Enjoy an evening of fun and friends while supporting the endeavors of the Imperial Valley Historical Society. Tickets: $200 per couple. Takes place at Pioneers Museum, 373 East Aten Road Imperial, CA starting at 6pm. For ticket information: call (760) 562-1591 or e-mail buonfortuna2@juno.com.

**October 21**
**Rib Cook-Off and Oktoberfest** - The South District Elk Lodges invite you to attend their Rib Cook-Off and Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 21, 2017. Festivities include South District Elk Lodges competing for the best pork ribs! Come see who has the best ribs from lodges in: Banning, Beaumont, Blythe, Brawley, Desert Hot Springs, El Centro, Indio, Needles, Palm Springs, 29 Palms and Yucca Valley. Live Music | Pumpkin Patch | Food and Drinks. Event takes place from 11am to 4pm at the Brawley Elks Lodge #1420 located at 161 S. Plaza Street. For rib cook-off info contact: Carlos at (760) 427-7580. For beer tasting info contact: David at (760) 550-3375.

**October 24**
**3rd Annual Mariposa Award Gala** - Womanhaven (Center for Family Solutions) invites you to attend the 3rd Annual Mariposa Award Gala to take place at the Old Eucalyptus Schoolhouse located at 796 West Evan Hewes Hwy, El Centro. Starting at 6pm.

**October 24**
**WASUP WU Production Presents “A Night of Hope and Laughter” Comedy Show** - With comedy from Hek-Dog, John Hill, Jordan Conley and Mike Cano. All proceeds will go to Womanhaven, a Center for Family Solutions. Takes place at the Old Eucalyptus Schoolhouse located at 796 West Evan Hewes Hwy, El Centro, starting at 6pm. For more info call 760-791-9125 or 760-460-6088 Fees/Admission: Tickets $50 Dinner, Comedy Show, Raffles and more. This event is in conjunction with 3rd Annual Mariposa Award Gala.

**October 26**
**58th Annual Fall Festival** - Sts. Peter & Paul Episcopal Church invites you to their 58th Annual Fall Festival dedicated to all who help make the Imperial Valley a good place to live! There will be Craft Beers, Wine Tasting, Cheese, and Pates, Art Show, Non-Alcoholic Punch. Takes place at Sts. Peter & Paul Episcopal Church, El Centro, CA from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased with Elise Heald (760) 352-0110, Frances Rice (760) 357-2442, Mary Anne Hilderbrant (760) 473-1985 Fees/Admission: $25.00 per ticket.

**November 4-11**
**Brawley Cattle Call** - Chili Cook off - Nov. 4th; Kick Off Mixer-Nov. 6th; Mariachi Night- Nov. 8th; Parade takes place on November 11 starting at Western Ave. and Main St. For more information contact the Brawley Chamber of Commerce at (760) 344-3160.

**November 15**
**National Philanthropy Day** - Imperial Valley's 2017 National Philanthropy Day lunch celebration is taking place Wednesday, Nov. 15th from 11:30am-1:30pm at the Old Eucalyptus Schoolhouse in El Centro, CA. Join us for Imperial Valley’s 5th annual National Philanthropy Day celebration in honor of the people and organizations who make the Imperial Valley a great place to live. Special thank you to Rabobank, N.A. for their early support as the sponsor of the Philanthropist of the Year award to be presented at this year’s luncheon. For more information or questions, please contact Bobby Brock, IVCF President/CEO at (760) 336-0055 or email bobby@ivcommunityfoundation.org.

**December 2**
**72nd Annual El Centro Christmas Parade** – Join the El Centro Area Chamber and Los Vigilantes as we celebrate the Christmas Spirit with the 72nd Annual Christmas Parade! This parade boasts more than 100 entries that include marching bands, school dance & drill teams, equestrian teams and various Christmas themed floats from local residents and businesses. Parade begins at Main & 12th St. and heads East on Main, then turns south on 8th St., and ends at 8th & Aurora Dr. on Saturday, December 2, 2017. Parade begins at 10 a.m. For more information Contact: Anthony Moreno (760) 352-3681
Welcome New Members

Non-Profit Organizations
Calexico Neighborhood House
Denise Velasquez
506 E. 4th St.
Calexico, CA 92231
(760) 357-6875
http://www.nhclx.org

Physicians
Tien Vo, M.D. Inc
Esmeralda Diaz
1590 S. Imperial Ave.
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 352-2551
http://www.ttvomd.com

Publishing, Media & Advertising
Borderlife Media LLC
Tony Pimentel
PO Box 1537
Heber, CA 92249
(760) 909-9061
http://www.borderlifemarketingusa.com

Restaurants, Catering
Las Palmitas Taco Shop 2
Samuel Vega
880 Adams Ave.
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 595-3425

Schools/Educational Services
University of Redlands Online
Doug Luberda
1200 East Colton Ave.
Redlands, CA 92373
1-888-643-1150
http://online.redlands.edu

Solar Panels & Systems
GRID Alternatives
Jesse Gallardo
579 E. Ross Ave., Ste. A
El Centro, CA 92243
(619) 610-1176
http://www.gridalternatives.org

Health & Dental Insurance
SIMNSA Health Plan
Jorge Malacon
2088 Otay Lakes Rd #102
San Diego, CA 92135
(619) 407-4082
http://www.simnsa.com/simnsa/index.html

Juice Bar & Smoothies
Shake & Wake
Jesus Ruvalcaba
1490 N. Imperial Ave.
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 427-2749
http://www.shakenwake.com

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http://www.shakenwake.com

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The El Centro Area Chamber of Commerce Presents
Welcome Back Teachers Breakfast 2017
Thank You
This Event made possible with the help of the Following Chamber Members:

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El Centro Regional Medical Center
First Imperial Credit Union
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Girl Scouts - San Diego & Imperial Council
Hart Insurance Center, Inc.
Imperial Printers
Imperial Valley Mall
Lucky Super Market
Pioneer Memorial Healthcare District
Rabobank
Rick’s Group Diesel, Inc.
Robert Menivielle
Rogers & Rogers Auto Group
Sun Community Federal Credit Union
Starbucks Coffee
State Farm Insurance - Sierra Jaime, Agent
Styles & Smiles
Walmart Supercenter-El Centro

Special Thanks to our Business/Education Partner Sponsor:
Imperial Valley Girls ROCK!

SHOT CALLER: SHARON MOUSEL*

COMMUNITY CHANGE AGENT: HEATHER & LINDSEY WHITE*

SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN: HAILEY CONTRERAS*

ROCK STAR: MARIAM PEREZ*

STAR POWER: KIANA NAVA*

TRAILBLAZER: ISAURA RUIZ*

ALSO NOMINATED:

JUSTICE CAMPBELL-RODRIGUEZ
KIMBERLEY ALFARO MASSEY
OREDA CHIN & SARA CRUZ
DIANA SHELTON
NANCI RHODES

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