



May 23, 2025

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado  
Member, California State Senate  
1021 O St, Suite 6510  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 763 (Hurtado) – Promoting Competitive Markets: Modernizing Penalties in the Cartwright Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hurtado,

The Writers Guild of America West (WGAW), on behalf of the more than 10,000 members who write television shows, movies, and streaming programs, strongly supports your SB 763. This bill modernizes penalties under the Cartwright Act to more effectively deter anticompetitive conduct and violations of antitrust law in California.

The Writers Guild of America West has long raised concerns about consolidation in the media and entertainment industry and the need for stronger antitrust enforcement in response.<sup>1</sup> Antitrust underenforcement has allowed media conglomerates like Disney, Amazon, and Netflix to entrench their market power across the industry, harming competition, creative workers and consumers. Unless antitrust agencies and lawmakers step in, further consolidation and anticompetitive behavior among the dominant media firms is on the horizon.

SB 763 would enact a long-awaited update to state antitrust law by better aligning criminal penalties under state and federal antitrust law and adding civil penalties for Cartwright Act violations. The current penalties for violating the Cartwright Act have inadequately deterred anticompetitive behavior and have not been updated in decades. SB 763 gives the Office of the Attorney General and county district attorneys more tools to remedy harmful conduct, and help California set an example for the rest of the country.

SB 763 is a critical step towards fostering a vibrant, competitive media industry in the state of California. **For these reasons, we strongly support SB 763 and thank you for bringing forward this important legislation.**

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<sup>1</sup> Writers Guild of America West, *The New Gatekeepers: How Disney, Amazon, and Netflix Will Take Over Media* (Aug. 2023), <https://www.wga.org/the-guild/advocacy/politics-public-policy-pac/the-new-gatekeepers-how-disney-amazon-and-netflix-will-take-over-media>; Writers Guild of America West, *Writers Guild of America West Literature Submission and Comments RE: Antitrust Law – Study B-750 of the California Law Review Commission* (June 2024), [https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/news\\_and\\_events/public\\_policy/wgaw\\_comment\\_to\\_the\\_california\\_law\\_revision\\_commission\\_on\\_state\\_antitrust\\_law\\_reform.pdf](https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/news_and_events/public_policy/wgaw_comment_to_the_california_law_revision_commission_on_state_antitrust_law_reform.pdf).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelagh Wagener". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shelagh" being more prominent than the last name "Wagener".

Shelagh Wagener  
Political and Legislative Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erica Knox". The script is cursive, with "Erica" and "Knox" clearly legible.

Erica Knox  
Research & Public Policy Director