



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC-backed arbitration fairness bill advances

SB 1241 approved by Assembly Appropriations Committee

SACRAMENTO (June 29 2016) – A bill supported by Consumer Attorneys of California that will help consumers who are forced to take disputes to arbitration has advanced to the Assembly floor after winning approval from an Assembly committee this morning.

SB 1241 by Sen. Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont) passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee with unanimous Democratic support. The bill stops corporations from forcing Californians to go out of state to settle disputes or forcing Californians to settle disputes under watered-down consumer protection laws of another state.

“While SB 1241 does not prohibit corporations from forcing Californians to take their disputes to arbitration rather than the courts, it does prevent corporations from making Californians travel across the country or even out of the country to seek justice,” said Consumer Attorneys of California president Elise Sanguinetti. “It also prevents corporations from cherry-picking the laws that will govern the decision.”

She added, “A California consumer, small business or employee should never be forced to travel to a different state to exercise their rights. And corporations should not be able to undercut California’s strong consumer protection laws by unilaterally decreeing that another state’s laws should apply.”

Sanguinetti said the full Assembly will take up the bill after it returns from summer recess in August.

Consumer Attorneys of California is a professional organization of plaintiffs’ attorneys representing consumers seeking accountability against wrongdoers in cases involving personal injury, product liability, environmental degradation and other causes.

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