



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC-sponsored bill targeting secret settlements advances in California Senate

SB 820 protects victims of sexual assault, harassment and discrimination

SACRAMENTO (May 1, 2018) – A Consumer Attorneys of California-sponsored bill protecting victims of sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace was approved by the California Senate Judiciary Committee today.

Senate Bill 820, authored by Sen. Connie Leyva (D-Chino) and co-sponsored by the California Women's Law Center, is known as the STAND (Stand Together Against Non-Disclosures) Act. It would prohibit nondisclosure agreements (unless requested by the plaintiff) in settlements related to sexual assault, sexual harassment and sexual discrimination involving California employers, both public and private, including the Legislature.

If SB 820 is enacted into law, people who commit sexual assault and sexual harassment in the workplace in California will no longer be able to keep their misdeeds hidden. The bill was inspired by many recent accounts of wrongdoers, most notably Hollywood movie producer Harvey Weinstein, in which settlements for sexual misconduct were repeatedly paid but kept out of the public eye because of nondisclosure agreements. As a result, other victims were unknowingly put at risk, as repeat offenders were allowed to remain anonymous.

SB 820 will next be considered by the full Senate, and if passed will go through the approval process in the Assembly.

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.

For more information:

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