



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## Two pro-justice bills advance from policy committees

Legislation takes aim at forced arbitration in the workplace, data breaches

**SACRAMENTO (Apr. 24, 2018)** – Two bills co-sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California were approved by committees of the California Legislature today.

**Assembly Bill 3080** by Asm. Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher (D-San Diego) was approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. It will ensure that workers can take claims involving workplace sexual assault, harassment or discrimination to a court or state agency, rather than being forced by their employer to resolve such claims in a secret arbitration proceeding. By requiring these claims to be resolved in private, companies can in some cases allow serial harassers and repeat violators to continue their misconduct for years.

AB 3080 also prohibits employers from threatening, retaliating against or firing workers because they refuse to consent to forced arbitration. The bill is co-sponsored by CAOC, the California Labor Federation and SAG-AFTRA, the union that represents actors, broadcasters and journalists.

**Senate Bill 1121** by Sen. Bill Dodd (D-Napa) passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. . The bill is in response to last year's Equifax data breach that exposed personal and financial information of more than 145 million U.S. consumers by adding teeth to California's data breach statute, which has not had a comprehensive update despite years of technological change.

SB 1121 will clarify that "consumers," not just "customers," are covered by data breach protections. (This was an issue in the Equifax case, where consumers whose data was exposed did not have a direct relationship with Equifax.) The bill will also allow consumers to seek redress for up to four years starting when they suffer financial harm, not from the time of the breach. In addition, it will discourage breaches by adding damages and clarify that consumers can join together in class actions to hold negligent companies accountable. CAOC co-sponsors the bill along with CALPIRG.

AB 3080 will next be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee, while SB 1121 will be taken up by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

*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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