



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## CAOC-backed bill will protect sexual assault victims, give victims of USC's Dr. Tyndall a chance at justice

AB 1510 will allow victims facing statute of limitations challenges a short opportunity to hold the doctor and university accountable

**SACRAMENTO (Feb. 22, 2019)** – USC students who fell victim to Dr. George Tyndall, the campus gynecologist accused of molesting hundreds of women in his care over nearly three decades, will have a fresh opportunity to hold the physician and university accountable under a bill introduced today.

AB 1510, introduced by Asm. Eloise Gomez Reyes (D-San Bernardino) and backed by Consumer Attorneys of California, gives former students – facing the possibility of being denied justice because the statute of limitations on their cases may have run out – a chance to revive claims.

In May of 2018, the Los Angeles Times broke the story of a cover-up by USC of sexual misconduct by Tyndall, the sole full-time gynecologist at its Student Health Center since 1989. Although USC received numerous complaints over the decades about Tyndall, it only belatedly conducted an investigation in 2016 after a nurse reported the doctor to a rape crisis center.

Following the investigation, USC quietly paid Dr. Tyndall to go away. Meanwhile, the university failed to disclose information about the findings of their investigation to students or to the Medical Board of California and law enforcement. USC's failure to address complaints about Dr. Tyndall allowed him to continue to assault hundreds of victims over the decades.

“Dr. Tyndall used his position of trust and authority to repeatedly sexually abuse his vulnerable female patients for nearly thirty years,” said Nancy Peverini, CAOC Legislative Director. “Most of his victims were young, and many had never visited a gynecologist before. They put up with behavior by the doctor that was anything but treatment.

Among the accusations are that Tyndall forced patients to strip naked and took photographs, groped breasts, and digitally penetrated them – often without wearing gloves and with unwashed hands – and made racist, misogynistic and sexually-harassing comments to the young students

More than 600 of his former patients have filed civil lawsuits against Dr. Tyndall and USC for sexual battery and related sexual abuse, but USC will likely seek dismissal of these assault claims, claiming they are time-barred. Thus, AB 1510 is vital to giving these women an opportunity to have their day in court.

*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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