



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Bill ending forced arbitration for workplace sexual misconduct clears key California Senate committee

Employees can choose arbitration under CAOC-sponsored measure

SACRAMENTO (June 19, 2019) – Workplace sexual predators will no longer be able to hide their misconduct by forcing their victims into the secret setting of arbitration under a bill sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California that was approved by the California Senate Labor, Public Employment & Retirement Committee today.

Assembly Bill 51 by Asm. Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) will ensure that a worker cannot, as a condition of employment, be forced to resolve claims of workplace sexual misconduct through arbitration rather than the public forum of a court or state agency. Workers would still be able to freely and voluntarily enter into an arbitration agreement, but employers would be prevented from retaliating against an employee who refused to agree to such a clause.

“It’s long past time to put an end to enabling serial sexual harassers,” said Consumer Attorneys of California president Mike Arias. “Unless claims against them can be brought in a public setting, their misconduct remains hidden and others are put at risk. AB 51 will allow victims to pursue their claims in arbitration, but it needs to be by their choice, not because it is forced upon them.”

AB 51 is co-sponsored by the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO and backed by three dozen other groups ([access a full list of supporters here](#)). It will next be heard by the Senate Judiciary 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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