



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

End of secret settlements for sexual predators? California Senate approves CAOC-backed bill

SB 820 protects victims of sexual assault, harassment and discrimination

SACRAMENTO (May 21, 2018) – The state Senate this afternoon gave bipartisan approval to a Consumer Attorneys of California-sponsored bill protecting victims of sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace by targeting secret settlements that have allowed repeat offenders to shroud their misdeeds.

Senate Bill 820, authored by Sen. Connie Leyva (D-Chino) and co-sponsored by the California Women's Law Center, won approval on a 28-to-7 vote.

The measure, dubbed the STAND (Stand Together Against Non-Disclosures) Act, 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.

Under SB 820, perpetrators of sexual assault and harassment in the workplace will no longer be able to keep their transgressions hidden. The bill was spawned by the #MeToo movement and the many recent accounts of harassment, such as the predatory behavior of 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 now moves to the California Assembly for consideration.

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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