



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## CAOC-sponsored bill to help protect Californians from sexual predators passed by state Senate

AB 1870 extends the time limit for harassment victims to file a claim

**SACRAMENTO (Aug. 27, 2018)** – Consumer Attorneys of California-sponsored legislation that gives victims of harassment and discrimination more time to file a claim against an abuser was approved by the California Senate today.

Assembly Bill 1870, the SHARE (Stopping Harassment and Reporting Extension) Act, will extend the time allowed to file claims of harassment and discrimination under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act. Victims of such abuse are now allowed just one year to file a claim under FEHA, but AB 1870 extends that to three years, the same time allowed to file actions for fraud (an even longer time is allowed to file actions related to contract disputes). Several states already allow harassment and discrimination victims three years to file a claim, and some states allow even more time.

Low wage earners are particularly harmed by the short filing time now allowed under FEHA. Many low wage workers who suffer harassment or discrimination are not aware of their legal rights and do not know that that they cannot file a claim if they do not do so within a year. Many times, once they realize the treatment they endured is against the law, victims are past or close to the one-year deadline.

In the wake of the #MeToo movement, AB 1870 will increase the chances that sexual predators will be called to account for their behavior, thus protecting other potential victims. The bill also covers victims of harassment and discrimination based on age, race, religion, pregnancy or sexual orientation, as well as other categories.

AB 1870 is jointly authored by Asm. Eloise Gomez Reyes (D-San Bernardino), Asm. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) and Asm. Marie Waldron (R-Escondido) and is co-sponsored by CAOC, the California Employment Lawyers Association and Equal Rights Advocates.

The measure now goes back to the Assembly for concurrence on amendments approved in the Senate. California's legislative session ends August 31.

*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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