



Governor signs bill to give survivors of USC's Dr. Tyndall a chance at justice in state civil court

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

SACRAMENTO (Oct. 2, 2019) – Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed urgency legislation to give sexual assault survivors of Dr. George Tyndall a chance to seek justice in a state civil court against the former USC gynecologist accused of molesting thousands of women in his care over nearly three decades.

Assembly Bill 1510 by Asm. Eloise Gómez Reyes (D-San Bernardino) and backed by Consumer Attorneys of California would allow former students to press ahead with legal claims that face being denied because the statute of limitations on their cases may have run out.

In May 2018, the story broke 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 didn't conduct an investigation until 2016 after a nurse reported the doctor to a rape crisis center.

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 700 former students have filed civil lawsuits in California state court against Tyndall and USC for sexual battery and related sexual abuse. Accusations against Tyndall date as far back as the late 1980s.

The changes enacted by AB 1510 were approved by two-thirds votes in both houses and thus became law with the governor's signature. AB 1510 gives each Tyndall survivor a choice – they can pursue a lawsuit in state civil court, or they can join in a federal class-action settlement with USC.

“We are all very grateful that our cases can move forward,” said Nicole Haynes, a former USC track star who was molested by Tyndall when she attended the school in the 1990s. “This gives survivors like me a chance to hold those who harmed us accountable. We can choose our own path to justice.”

Haynes and more than 50 other Tyndall survivors gathered in late April at the state Capitol along with Olympic gymnastic champ Aly Raisman, herself a sexual assault survivor, to rally in support for the bill. The bill also won the support of USC student groups, including the university's student government. Other supporters include California Women's Law Center, Courage Campaign, Equal Rights Advocates and the Student Senate for California Community Colleges.

For more information:

**Eric Bailey, CAOC Communications Director, 916-669-7122, ebailey@caoc.org
J.G. Preston, CAOC Press Secretary, 916-669-7126, jgpreston@caoc.org**