



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## CAOC-sponsored bill to aid dying asbestos victims passed by California Senate

SB 632 will end marathon depositions of the terminally ill

**SACRAMENTO (May 8, 2017)** – Californians who are dying from illnesses caused by exposure to asbestos will be protected from grueling marathon depositions under a Consumer Attorneys of California-sponsored bill that won approval from the state Senate today.

Senate Bill 632, authored by Sen. Bill Monning (D-Carmel) and supported by a broad range of labor organizations, passed the Senate 29-9 with bipartisan support. It will limit depositions of dying asbestos victims to no more than seven hours. In 2012 the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 1875 to protect victims with a terminal illness from abusive depositions. But since then, courts dealing with asbestos cases have used broad language permitting “judicial discretion” to ignore time limits.

“Victims of asbestos poisoning have been victimized again by being subjected to lengthy depositions that are physically and psychologically taxing, even for healthy plaintiffs,” said CAOC president Greg Bentley. “These drawn-out depositions are cruel but, unfortunately, have not been at all unusual. In some cases the deposition process has been ended only by the plaintiff’s death. SB 632 will protect the terminally ill from this abuse.”

SB 632 now goes to the California Assembly, where it will first be heard by the 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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