



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC-supported senior protection bill signed into law

AB 2171 aids residents of assisted-living facilities

SACRAMENTO (Sept. 29, 2014) – A bill supported by the Consumer Attorneys of California that would create a bill of rights for residents of assisted-living facilities in California was signed into law Sunday by Gov. Jerry Brown.

AB 2171, authored by Assemblyman Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont), gives residents of Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) protections similar to those already enjoyed by the state's nursing home residents. The measure will protect RCFE residents in areas such as visitation, privacy, confidentiality, personalized care and adequate staffing, while also strengthening a resident's right to make choices about his or her care, treatment and daily life in the facility.

"This bill will improve the dignity, safety and self-determination of our most vulnerable parents and grandparents," said CAOC president John M. Feder. "We are proud to have worked with California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform to put this important protection into law."

Additional legal protection for RCFE residents is necessary because the state agency responsible for overseeing such facilities has been decimated by cutbacks and is exceedingly slow to act in the face of an epidemic of neglect, taking months or even years to complete an investigation when complaints are filed. Thirty years ago, regulators inspected such homes every six months. Today, budget cuts have reduced government oversight to drive-by inspections once every five years.

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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