



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Informing Californians about dangerous docs: Bill requiring notification of doctor probation advances

SB 1448 will let patients know about doctors' sexual, substance abuse

SACRAMENTO (June 19, 2018) – California patients will be told when their doctor is on probation for a serious offense such as sexual misconduct or substance abuse under a bill supported by Consumer Attorneys of California that was passed by the Assembly Business and Professions Committee today.

Under **Senate Bill 1448** by Sen. Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo), doctors placed on probation for specified serious offenses on or after July 1, 2019, will be required to notify patients about their probationary status before the patient's first visit. Notification will be required if the doctor has been placed on probation by a California licensing board for sexual abuse, misconduct or relations with a patient or client; drug or alcohol abuse directly resulting in harm to a patient, or abuse that impairs the ability of the doctor to practice safely; a criminal conviction involving harm to patient safety or health; or inappropriate prescribing resulting in patient harm and five or more years of probation.

SB 1448 addresses the problem of doctors who have histories of sexual assault or other serious misconduct affecting patient safety hiding their misdeeds for years or in some cases even decades without their patients knowing. The recent case against Olympic team doctor Larry Nassar, who was convicted after decades of abusing the athletes under his care, and the recent allegations of sexual abuse by hundreds of former University of Southern California students against gynecologist George Tyndall, highlight the need to protect patients from dangerous doctors.

The Los Angeles Times, in [an editorial supporting SB 1448](#), points out: "California requires physicians who are placed on probation to inform their insurance companies and the hospitals and clinics where they practice, they don't have to tell the people who may be harmed the most – their patients. This is outrageous. People have a right to know if their doctor is on probation for serious misconduct."

SB 1448 will next be heard by the Assembly Appropriations 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.

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