



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Bill protecting worker rights goes to governor

CAOC-backed AB 465 requires employees' consent for waiver of rights

SACRAMENTO (Aug. 27, 2015) –A Consumer Attorneys of California-backed bill to protect the legal rights of California workers was given final approval by the state Assembly today and now goes to Gov. Jerry Brown.

AB 465 becomes one of the few bills designated as a so-called “job killer” targeted by the California Chamber of Commerce to pass both chambers of the Legislature and go to the governor’s desk. CalChamber and its allies fiercely opposed the bill without showing any evidence that implementation of the bill would actually eliminate any jobs.

The measure, sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and authored by Assemblyman Roger Hernandez (D-West Covina), will ensure that important employment rights and procedures cannot be jettisoned without the voluntary consent of employees in writing.

AB 465 helps level the playing field for workers who are routinely forced into a tough choice by their employers as a condition of employment: Sign away fundamental legal rights to settle labor disputes or risk losing a job or not getting hired in the first place.

Employers routinely push workers to sign contracts mandating that labor disputes be settled through forced arbitration, a process that invariably favors the employer. AB 465 ensures that workers will have a choice to settle labor disputes through an unbiased forum, such as a jury trial or the state Labor Commissioner.

“No worker should be forced to choose between a job and giving up core labor rights and protections,” Asm. Hernandez said when presenting the bill on the Assembly floor today.

“AB 465 ensures workers have a true choice between forced arbitration and settling job disputes in the courts or at the state Labor Commissioner,” said CAOC President Brian Chase. “Without this bill, workers have no freedom of choice at all.”

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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