



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Assembly approves 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 a short opportunity to hold the doctor and university accountable

SACRAMENTO (May 9, 2019) – USC students who fell victim to Dr. George Tyndall, the campus gynecologist accused of molesting hundreds of women in his care over nearly three decades, will have an opportunity to hold the physician and university accountable under a bill approved today by the California Assembly. The vote was 59-0.

AB 1510 by Asm. Eloise Gomez Reyes (D-San Bernardino) and backed by Consumer Attorneys of California would give former students a chance to press forward with claims in state civil court that face being denied because the statute of limitations on their cases may have run out.

In May of 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 failed to take action against the doctors and only belatedly conducted an investigation in 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.

As many as 650 Tyndall patients have filed civil lawsuits in California civil court against Tyndall and USC for sexual battery and related sexual abuse, but USC will likely seek dismissal of these assault claims, claiming they are time-barred. AB 1510 is vital to giving Tyndall survivors their day in a California civil court.

The legislation does nothing to effect a separate \$215-million federal class-action settlement that USC negotiated. Instead, AB 1510 gives each Tyndall survivor a choice – they can pursue a lawsuit in state civil court, or they can join in the class-action settlement.

More than 50 Tyndall survivors in late April gathered 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 has 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.

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