



## Brown signs CAOC-backed bill banning secret settlements for sexual misconduct

SB 820 aims to halt workplace sexual predators by making misdeeds public

**SACRAMENTO (Sept. 30, 2018)** – Gov. Jerry Brown has signed a Consumer Attorneys of California-sponsored bill spawned by the #MeToo movement to protect victims of sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace.

Authored by Sen. Connie Leyva (D-Chino) and co-sponsored by the California Women’s Law Center, Senate Bill 820 targets secret settlements that have allowed offenders to keep their misdeeds out of the public eye and continue to abuse others.

Known as the STAND Act (Stand Together Against Non-Disclosures), SB 820 would prohibit nondisclosure agreements in settlements related to sexual assault, sexual harassment and sex discrimination involving California employers, both public and private, including the Legislature. A defendant’s identity would not be shielded under any circumstances.

SB 820 arose from the #MeToo movement and the many accounts of harassment, including Hollywood movie producer Harvey Weinstein, whose sexual misconduct led to repeated settlements that were kept out of the public eye because of nondisclosure agreements.

Workplace sexual predators have been able to use secret settlements to silence victims and keep their transgressions hidden, putting other victims at risk and allowing predators to repeat again and again. SB 820 changes that by bringing this misconduct out in the open.

“The time has arrived to end the silence of harassment victims,” said CAOC President Lee Harris. “For too long non-disclosure agreements have allowed predators like Harvey Weinstein to continue unchecked and unaccountable. Finally, victims will have a voice.”

*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:**

**J.G. Preston, CAOC Press Secretary, 916-669-7126, [jgpreston@caoc.org](mailto:jgpreston@caoc.org)  
Eric Bailey, CAOC Communications Director, 916-669-7122, [ebailey@caoc.org](mailto:ebailey@caoc.org)**