



Three CAOC-backed #MeToo bills win Senate Appropriations approval, move on to final floor votes

The measures give victims a better shot at justice in harassment cases

SACRAMENTO (August 30, 2019) – The Senate Appropriations Committee approved three CAOC-backed bills today that seek to stem workplace harassment and restore legal rights.

Assembly Bill 51 by Asm. Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) will ensure that a worker is not required as a condition of employment to waive their right to a day in court or before a state labor agency on workplace claims involving sexual assault, harassment, discrimination, pay equity, retaliation or other labor disputes.

Under AB 51, workers would still be able to freely and voluntarily enter into an arbitration agreement, but employers would be prevented from retaliating against an employee who refused to agree to such a clause. The bill is co-sponsored by the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO and backed by three dozen other groups ([access a full list of supporters here](#)).

Assembly Bill 9 by Asm. Eloise Gómez Reyes (D-San Bernardino) will extend the current one-year limit for filing claims of harassment and discrimination to three years, giving victims a better chance of holding sexual predators accountable. Several other states already allow anywhere from three to six years to file such claims.

An extended filing deadline would be especially important for low-wage workers, who often are initially unaware of their legal rights and don't know that they are barred from filing a claim after one year. Many times victims of harassment or discrimination are dealing with trauma or pressure in the workplace that keep them from beating the one-year deadline to file a claim. The bill is sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California, the California Employment Lawyers Association and Equal Rights Advocates.

Assembly Bill 1510 would allow former USC students who fell victim to Dr. George Tyndall – the campus gynecologist accused of molesting thousands of women in his care over nearly three decades – a chance to press ahead with legal claims that face being denied because the statute of limitations on their cases may have run out. The bill is authored by Asm. Reyes.

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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