



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Bill to help childhood sexual assault survivors passes California Senate, goes to governor

CAOC-supported AB 218 expands statute of limitations for claims

SACRAMENTO (September 14, 2019) – Victims of childhood sexual abuse will have a greater opportunity to pursue justice under a bill supported by Consumer Attorneys of California that awaits Gov. Gavin Newsom’s signature after winning approval from the California Senate early today.

Assembly Bill 218 by Asm. Lorena Gonzalez (D-Sam Diego) will allow victims to file a claim for a sexual assault in their childhood until the age of 40, or within five years of the time they discovered they suffered damages as a result of the assault, whichever comes later. Current law allows such claims until the victim is 26, or within three years of delayed discovery. Once enacted, AB 218 will allow for a three-year window in which claims that may have expired due to the statute of limitations under current law can be revived.

In addition, in cases where a child becomes a victim of sexual assault as the result of an effort to cover up previous assaults, AB 218 will also allow a court to award recovery of up to treble damages from the defendant who engaged in the cover-up.

“AB 218 will give victims who have not been ready to tell their story until now the chance to hold those responsible accountable,” said Consumer Attorneys of California legislative director Nancy Peverini. “In the process it will protect others from potential future harm at the hands of assailants who have not been previously identified.”

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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