



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

#MeToo-inspired bill protecting victims of sexual predators wins committee approval

AB 9 extends time to file claims of harassment and discrimination

SACRAMENTO (July 9, 2019) – Legislation inspired by the #MeToo movement that will give victims of workplace sexual harassment and discrimination more time to file claims won approval from the state Senate Judiciary Committee today.

Assembly Bill 9, the SHARE (Stopping Harassment and Reporting Extension) Act, by Asm. Eloise Gómez Reyes (D-San Bernardino), Asm. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) and Asm. Marie Waldron (R-Escondido), will extend the time to file claims of harassment and discrimination under California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) from the current one year 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.

The bill is sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California, the California Employment Lawyers Association and Equal Rights Advocates.

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.

"This will increase the chance of holding sexual predators accountable and in the process reduce the number of repeat offenders," said CAOC president Mike Arias. "It also allows more time to resolve a claim outside of court."

AB 9 now heads to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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
Eric Bailey, CAOC Communications Director, 916-669-7122, ebailey@caoc.org**