



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Bill ending the force in forced arbitration for workplace disputes wins approval in key Senate committee

CAOC-backed measure will allow workers to choose court or arbitration

SACRAMENTO (July 9, 2019) – Employers would be prohibited from requiring that workers accept forced arbitration as a condition of taking or keeping a job under a bill sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California that was approved today in the state Senate Judiciary Committee.

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 the bill, 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.

“It’s time to put an end to the practice of employers forcing arbitration on their workers instead of allowing them the option of resolving disputes in a court of law,” said Consumer Attorneys of California president Mike Arias. “AB 51 will still allow workers to take labor claims to arbitration, but it needs to be a choice, not something forced on them.”

AB 51 is co-sponsored by the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO and backed by three dozen other groups ([access a full list of supporters here](#)).

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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