



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## Assembly panel OKs bill to give survivors of USC's Dr. Tyndall a chance at justice in state civil court

AB 1510 will allow victims facing statute of limitations challenges a short opportunity to hold the doctor and university accountable

**SACRAMENTO (April 9, 2019)** – USC students who fell victim to Dr. George Tyndall, the campus gynecologist accused of molesting hundreds of women in his care over nearly three decades, will have an opportunity to hold the physician and university accountable under a bill approved today by the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

AB 1510 by Asm. Eloise Gomez Reyes (D-San Bernardino) and backed by Consumer Attorneys of California would give former students a chance to press forward with claims in state civil court that face being denied because the statute of limitations on their cases may have run out.

In May of 2018, the Los Angeles Times broke the story of a cover-up by USC of sexual misconduct by Tyndall, the sole full-time gynecologist at its Student Health Center since 1989. Although USC received numerous complaints over the decades about Tyndall, it failed to take action against the doctors and only belatedly conducted an investigation in 2016 after a nurse reported the doctor to a rape crisis center.

Among the accusations are that Tyndall forced patients to strip naked and took photographs, groped breasts, and digitally penetrated them – often without wearing gloves and with unwashed hands – and made racist, misogynistic and sexually-harassing comments to the young students.

Nicole Haynes told the committee how she was abused by Tyndall in 1995, when she was a junior and captain of the USC track team. She came under Tyndall's care with a case of food poisoning, but instead of offering proper treatment the doctor gave her a full vaginal exam, the first of her life. "Like hundreds of my fellow Trojan sisters I was sexually assaulted by Dr. Tyndall," Haynes said. "We will not be silenced. AB 1510 will give survivors like me a chance to hold those responsible accountable."

More than 800 Tyndall patients have filed civil lawsuits in California against Tyndall and USC for sexual battery and related sexual abuse, but USC will likely seek dismissal of these assault claims, claiming they are time-barred. AB 1510 is vital to giving Tyndall survivors their day in California civil court.

The legislation does nothing to effect a separate \$215-million federal class-action settlement that USC negotiated. Instead, AB 1510 gives each Tyndall survivor a choice – they can pursue a lawsuit in state civil court, or they can join in the class-action settlement.

*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:**

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