



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC-backed bill banning secret settlements for sexual misconduct passes Assembly committee

SB 820 by Sen. Connie Leyva targets workplace sexual predators

SACRAMENTO (July 3, 2018) – A Consumer Attorneys of California-sponsored bill protecting victims of sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace was approved today by the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 820, authored by Sen. Connie Leyva (D-Chino) and co-sponsored by the California Women's Law Center, targets secret settlements that have allowed repeat offenders to conceal their misdeeds. Known as the STAND (Stand Together Against Non-Disclosures) Act, SB 820 would prohibit nondisclosure agreements (unless requested by the plaintiff) in settlements related to sexual assault, sexual harassment and sex discrimination involving California employers, both public and private, including the Legislature.

Workplace sexual predators have been able to use secret settlements to silence victims and keep their transgressions hidden, putting other victims at risk. SB 820 changes that by bringing this misconduct out in the open. The bill arose from the #MeToo movement and the many recent accounts of harassment, including Hollywood movie producer Harvey Weinstein, whose sexual misconduct led to repeated settlements that were kept out of the public eye because of nondisclosure agreements.

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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