



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## Workplace forced arbitration bill going to the governor

Senate approves CAOC-backed measure giving workers a choice of forum

**SACRAMENTO (September 5, 2019)** – The California Senate today sent legislation to Gov. Gavin Newsom that would prohibit employers from requiring workers to sign away their rights and accept forced arbitration as a condition of taking or keeping a job.

Assembly Bill 51 by Asm. Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) would 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.

“This bill will ensure that workers aren’t stripped of their rights in employment disputes,” said Consumer Attorneys of California president Mike Arias. “This legislation gives them a choice. They can take a labor claim to court, or if they wish they can choose 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.*

### **For more information:**

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