



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC statement on veto of SB 251

SACRAMENTO (Oct. 10, 2015) – Consumer Attorneys of California president Brian Chase has the following statement concerning Gov. Jerry Brown’s veto today of SB 251:

“CAOC worked for more than a year with the California Chamber of Commerce and others to develop and pass SB 251, which encourages disability access compliance under the Americans with Disabilities Act and also addresses the abusive practices of a small group of attorneys. We are extremely disappointed that our efforts were vetoed due to one provision that addresses tax credits for building owners who make their buildings ADA compliant.

“However, since the veto is limited to that narrow issue, we will explore reintroducing the bill in January without the tax credit provision that was the subject of the veto.

“We applaud the author of SB 251, Sen. Richard Roth (D-Riverside), for his hard work trying to balance the civil rights of people with disabilities while stopping the abusive practices of some attorneys who file lawsuits seeking fees, not compliance. Sen. Roth worked tirelessly and we plan to work with him in January.”

SB 251, co-sponsored by CAOC and CalChamber, would have given business owners a short window of protection from statutory damages if their business had been inspected by a state-approved Certified Access Specialist (CAsp) and any violations were corrected within 120 days of the inspection, or up to six months if a building permit were required. SB 251 also included a tax credit for some expenditures to improve access.

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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