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CELA Applauds Congress for Sexual Harassment Reforms

Sacramento –If workers in Congress finally can have stronger sexual harassment protections and enforcement policies, there is hope for all Americans.

Today, the California Employment Lawyers Association (CELA) applauds both the House and Senate for passing, by unanimous consent, a bill to reform how Congress addresses harassment claims, settlement payments, toxic workplaces, and retaliation.

The bill (S.3749 - Klobuchar) now heads to the desk of the president.

The following statement is by CELA's policy director and legislative counsel, Mariko Yoshihara:

"Today's vote is a long-overdue victory for the workforce in Congress. While these reforms represent an important step forward in ensuring stronger protections and enforcement mechanisms for survivors of sexual harassment, we still have work to do. California recently passed some of the strongest sexual harassment legislation in the nation, including SB 1300 (Jackson). We call on other jurisdictions to take notice by clarifying the legal standard of what defines sexual harassment, so that our laws reflect the importance of giving women and people of all genders equal opportunity to thrive in the workplace, not just survive in it. As well, workers never should be forced to sign away their rights to sue or to speak out about workplace violations.

"#MeToo is a movement, not a moment. We will accept only forward progress in making our workplaces safe places."

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About California Employment Lawyers Association (CELA): CELA exists to protect and expand the legal rights and opportunities of all California workers and to strengthen the community of lawyers who represent them