AB 250 – Justice for Survivors of Sexual Assault Act

SUMMARY

AB 250 safeguards survivors of sexual assault by holding both perpetrators and any entities that cover up, or attempt to cover up, these crimes accountable for the harm inflicted. This bill delivers a clear message: perpetrators and the institutions that enable their abuse will no longer be shielded. The culture of secrecy and protection ends here.

BACKGROUND

A sexual assault occurs every 68 seconds. Sexual violence affects people of all gender identities, ages, and sexual orientations. It is alarmingly common and can have lasting effects on survivors, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Survivors often need time to process and confront their trauma. Yet, under current law, adult survivors of sexual assault have only ten years from the last act—or three years from discovering the resulting injury—to pursue legal action. Recognizing many survivors take years to come forward, previous legislation has allowed them to revive civil allegations, ensuring they have a path to seek justice.

PROBLEM

Previously, California law provided a limited window for reviving claims seeking damages against entities or their agents that engaged in, or attempted to cover up, sexual assault. However, this statute applied only to claims against entities that covered up a sexual assault, not the individuals who perpetrated sexual assault. The revival period for these types of claims expired on December 31, 2023. Unfortunately, confusion over the statute's intent created uncertainty, hindering survivors' ability to fully access the justice system.

THIS BILL

AB 250 would explicitly establish legal responsibility for damages on both the perpetrator of sexual assault and any entity or entities involved in covering up or attempting to cover up the assault. Additionally, AB 250 would extend the statute of limitations for these claims until December 31, 2027, and revive related claims, including but not limited to wrongful termination and sexual harassment arising from the sexual assault.

SUPPORT

California Employment Lawyers Association (Co-Sponsor) Equal Rights Advocates (Co-Sponsor) Victims Policy Institute

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