

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Mark Stone  
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 104  
Sacramento, CA 95817

**RE: Assembly Bill 3092 (Wicks) – Support**

Dear Assemblymember Stone,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of AB 3092, which will provide a path to justice for those who were sexually assaulted by Dr. James Heaps.

Dr. James Heaps is a gynecologist who worked at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) from 1990 to 2018. During his tenure, UCLA received several complaints of sexual assault from his patients. UCLA acknowledged that it received a complaint against Dr. Heaps in 2014, but continued to employ him until 2018.

Unfortunately, many of the survivors' civil claims for sexual assault against Dr. Heaps could be barred by the statute of limitations. Because of the intimate nature of a doctor-patient relationship, particularly a gynecologist-patient relationship, it can be difficult for patients to differentiate between medically necessary acts and sexual assault. This can lead to delayed discovery linking emotional injuries a survivor is experiencing to the previous acts of abuse. This bill would give survivors the opportunity to pursue their time-barred claims during a limited one-year window.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. We prioritize eliminating barriers that prevent survivors of sexual assault from pursuing justice.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports AB 3092.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director

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